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# The NATIONAL

VOLUME XXVIII

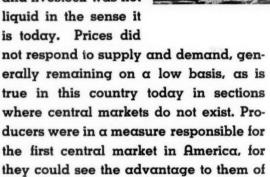
JULY, 1938

NUMBER 7



# For Many Centuries

the only method of marketing livestock was "direct." During this period livestock producers often found themselves without a dependable market, and livestock was not liquid in the sense it is today. Prices did



a market where both supplies and de-

mand were concentrated, and welcomed



this improvement over the old system.

CENTRAL MARKETS are today accepted much like other improvements, and as a permanent fixture. They can only serve the Producer, however, if he patronizes

them. Each Producer who sells "direct" not only weakens the system for his neighbor but also for himself. If there were no central markets, Producers and Livestock Associations would be trying to create them, and would be willing to invest their own money in them if necessary. It is better to preserve the present machinery.

# DENVER

Is one of the larger central markets of the nation. It furnishes an outlet for all kinds of livestock and has done much to increase values in the West.

### NORTH SALT LAKE

Sheep capacity 30,000 head— 10,000 under cover in National Ram Sale Barn.

Large roomy pens, running artesian water and choice alfalfa hay.

Competent day and night crews here to serve you.

EAST or WEST for best of service, BILL TO FEED AT NORTH SALT LAKE

### SALT LAKE UNION STOCK YARDS

North Salt Lake

The National Ram Sale, August 23-24, 1938, Union Stock Yards, North Salt Lake, Utah.

# Favored Throughout the Range

as a handling point for livestock because of the widespread distribution of lambs going to slaughter. For example, lambs sold on a market day recently were shipped to slaughter at eight different points. A market that is in a position to level off the supply by distributing those supplies where they are needed is better than one that is dependent on local slaughter alone.

OGDEN has earned this reputation through the efforts of those who are constantly striving to build up a nearby outlet for the Western supply of livestock.

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Marketing Western Wools Since 1921

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# Kansas City-

THE SECOND LARGEST SLAUGHTER POINT IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CENTRAL WESTERN MARKET WITH LARGEST AND QUICKEST DISTRIBUTING POWER.

"The change of ownership privilege" has brought new and broader demand, from all sections and from some sections not served by other markets. Since offerings at Kansas City get the full benefit of nation-wide demand built around best distributing facilities, it is to the advantage of every western producer to market in Kansas City.

Sell Your Sheep and Lambs at the Center of Demand

Not on the Edge of It

The Nation Buys Livestock at Kansas City

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John A. Reed. J. B. Wilson....

### CONTENTS

DLUME XXVIII July, 1938

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### The National Wool Grower

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F. R. Marshall, Editor

Irene Young, Assistant Editor

### Page

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- 3 Editorial Comment on Sheep and Wool Affairs
- 4 Stocker and Feeder Freight Rates to be Reconsidered
- 5 Status of Fabric Legislation Violating Our Constitution
- 6 Annual Meeting of Meat Board
- 7 The 23rd Annual National Ram Sale
- 8 The U. S. Senate Committee Hearings on Wool Marketing: Part II, Selling of Wools Consigned to Dealers
- 11 Headquarters for the 74th Annual Convention
- 12 Around the Range Country
- 14 Dr. Bell's Super-Sheep More Conservation
- 16 Wool Market News
- 17 Grazing Management
- 20 Breeding Rambouillets for Wool and Mutton
- 23 National Wool Marketing Corporation News Bulletin
- 25 The Lamb Markets in June
- 30 Big Gates on Little Hinges
- 33 The Feeder Lamb Market
- 36 Auxiliary News

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California. Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

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# EDITORIAL COMMENT

# On Sheep and Wool Affairs

SECRETARY Marshall has not taken a real vacation in years. We are insisting that he vacation for at least a full month. Therefore, Dr. McClure and your President are using the Editorial Page this month.

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Due to a slow wool market and the difficulty of getting full CCC loans in the West, dealers are again getting a fair quantity of wool on consignment. What will the history of these present consignments show? Will the better factors in the wool trade see to it that some of the past evils of consignment practices be corrected? Will they clean their own house at this late date? They could well see to it that growers are consulted before sales are made; that wools are taken over for the account of the consignee—by this I mean purchased by themselves—only with the grower's consent; and that consignors are promptly notified of sales, given complete information, buyers' names, addresses, terms, etc.

The growers in the West, by their sales, have been and are making the market price. Some sales have been made at less than loan value. Present conditions do not permit foreign importations and the manufacturer naturally buys whenever he can buy for the least price that has been in the West. It seems entirely logical that the growers could have sold during the past few months practically the same poundage of wool at several cents per pound higher price than they have done. It would also seem only logical that when the wool crop is more permanently stored, loans made, and so forth, owners will insist on a premium of a few cents per pound above loans before they will sell.

The western ranges have generally had wonderful rains; they are in remarkably fine condition. Time has again proven the stockmen's position in regard to range conditions: Conditions are good, if and when it rains.

R. C. Rich

### **OUR ASSOCIATIONS**

In the absence of Secretary Marshall I have been asked to write something for this issue of the Wool Grower. I am going to write about the work accomplished this year by the National Wool Growers Association and its affiliated state associations. It is appropriate that I should do this, for I have had no active part in these labors and can render an impartial judgment. To accomplish these wonderful results the National Wool Growers Association has had the active assistance of the state associations, the National Wool Marketing Association and the various committees sent to Washington. To all of these due credit must be given and especially to President Rich, Secretary Marshall, and Byron Wilson. The Texas Association was especially active in keeping committees in Washington.

We must remember that there are two sides to every legislative proposal. Unfortunately, the other side has generally won, but not this year.

When Congress adjourns the nation always seems relieved. Possibly the fear of new legislation disturbs the business affairs of the country. However, this year's Congress has dealt kindly with the affairs of western sheepmen. I do not remember a year when the National Wool Growers Association, with the assistance of the state associations, secured the passage of so much useful legislation.

Had Congress remained in session a few days longer, the fabric bill which had passed the Senate would have become law. The bill is far enough along so that there is little doubt about its final passage. The increasing use of rayon and other substitutes for wool make the passage of this bill imperative. This bill could not have been brought to its present favorable position without a tremendous amount of excellent work having been done in its interest. I do not know when pure fabric legislation was first suggested, but it has been before Congress in one form or another for nearly half a century. Another year will see the law in effect.

Another accomplishment of the associations is the law requiring payment of increased duties on certain carpet wools. Under a department ruling these were being admitted free. They will now pay full duty when used for clothing.

Another most important accomplishment was the passage of a law placing the Wool Tops Futures Market under regulation of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Wool growers will remember that as a result of unregulated speculation in the futures market it was felt that the price of wool had been lowered. The wool growers' associations insisted that the futures market be placed under governmental regulation. That has now been accomplished.

Another important accomplishment was securing the governmental loan on wool. This loan will have only a good effect and will give growers a chance to hold their wool for better prices.

While not much has been said about it, these associations have been responsible for a very thorough investigation of the American wool marketing practices. This investigation has been completed and a report made to a committee of the United States Senate. The hearings are not

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yet completed, but if the charges made are sustained we will see an entirely new system of wool marketing established in this country. I urge wool growers to keep fully informed on this investigation.

One of the most important things done this year has been the official protest filed against the British and Canadian Reciprocal Trade Agreements. Neither of these agreements has been completed, but no matter what their outcome, wool growers may rest assured their case has been well presented.

The case involving a 15 per cent increase in livestock freight rates was presented by these associations and resulted in a 5 per cent increase for livestock, but a 10 per cent increase was granted on industrial products.

I have reviewed just the highlights of association activities. When we stop to consider that 130 million people were pleading before Congress for legislation of one kind or another, we sheepmen should indeed feel gratefu' that our cause was given such liberal consideration. Likewise we are under lasting obligations to our association leaders for the wisdom they have displayed in presenting our case. We express our appreciation by supporting our local and national organizations.

S. W. McClure

### Labor Costs

THE Wisconsin Council of Agriculture has recently made an investigation of increasing labor costs in relation to cost and price of farm and industrial products. It found that starting with the years 1912 to 1915 industrial labor wages, cost of living, price of farm products and commodity prices were all fairly uniform and about on the same level. At that time they assumed that all these prices represented 100 per cent. By 1920 industrial wages had increased to 240 per cent, commodity prices to 225 per cent, farm prices to 220 per cent and the cost of living to 210 per cent. Then came the panic of 1920 and 1921. Industrial wages declined to 220, cost of living to 175, commodity prices to 145, and prices of farm products to 125. Industrial wages never dropped below this level until the depression of 1930 when they reached a low of 180, but then the cost of living had dropped to 135, commodity prices to 95 and the prices of farm products to a low of 45. Today industrial wages stand at 235 per cent of 1915, cost of living at 145, commodity prices at 125 and farm prices at 120. As these prices were taken several weeks ago farm and commodity prices would be lower today than here reported.

These figures, which we assume are accurate, indicate that there is no relation between the prices of farm products and the wages paid to industrial labor. This report even suggests that the decline in farm prices may be partly due to the excessive increase in the prices of industrial wages. If advancing wages have the effect of reducing employment, then they certainly re-

duce the price of farm products by reducing the ability of the unemployed to buy. It is now charged that one of the reasons for the present depression is the high wages demanded by industrial labor, resulting in high commodity cost. While labor is constantly endeavoring to convince the farmer that high wages mean high farm prices, it begins to look as though the farmer is best off when a large number of men are employed at fair wages rather than a few men at high wages. Several industries might be cited where extremely high wages have resulted in paralyzing the industry. This is notably true in the case of certain railroads as well as in the building trades. A few men receiving too high wages may result in millions receiving a dole.

S. W. McClure

### SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

SHOWS AND SALES

Texas Sheep Show and Sale, San Angelo—July 19-21
West Texas Ram Sale and Sheep Show, Eden—August 4-5
Idaho Ram Sale, Filer—August 10
Oregon Ram Sale, Pendleton—August 19
National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City—August 23-24.
New Mexico Ram Sale, Albuquerque—September 30
Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland—October 1-9
American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City—October 15-22
Ak-Sar-Ben Stock Show, Omaha—October 23-29
International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago—November 26-December 3

### CONVENTIONS

Colorado Wool Growers Association, Glenwood Springs—July 27-29 Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Lander—August 3-5 Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, San Antonio—December 8-9

### Stocker and Feeder Freight Rates to be Reconsidered

ON April 23 of this year the rail-roads petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission to reopen Docket 17,000, Part 9 Livestock—Western District Rates—for reconsideration and modification of the rates on stocker and feeder livestock. This petition was granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission in its order dated June 13.

The reopening of this case, the order of the Commission states, "does not involve the rates on fat livestock except insofar as permission is sought in all instances to apply the fat livestock rates and the minima applicable in connection therewith on all edible livestock, and under certain circumstances refund later to be made to the 85 per cent basis in the event of a further rail haul," which will "necessitate consideration being given to the question of whether, if the relief sought be granted, the minima on fat livestock are reasonable for application on all kinds of livestock of the same class." Therefore, the reopening includes the question of minimum weights on fat livestock.

In their petition the carriers submitted for consideration of the Commission the following suggestions for a revision of stocker and feeder rates:

(1) Cancellation of all rates, rules and regulations now in effect on stocker and feeder livestock in the West, (2) cancellation of all proportional rates now in effect on stocker and feeder livestock from western points when destined to the East and Southeast, and (3) establishment of tariff rules under which shipments of livestock

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consigned to points other than public stockyards, public livestock markets, public feed yards, and slaughtering points will be given the benefit of the 85 per cent basis of rates—not in the first instance, but by readjustment of inbound charges upon proof of subsequent reshipment by rail.

Places and dates of hearings in this reopened case have not been announced by the Commission but proper presentation of producers' interests before that body is being arranged for.

### Status of Fabric Legislation

SHORTLY before the adjournment of Congress a subcommittee of which Congressman Lea, chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce acted as chairman, made a favorable report to the main committee on the wool labeling bill introduced by Congressman John A. Martin of Colorado, and known as H. R. 10884.

This measure modifies S. 3502, introduced by Senator H. H. Schwartz of Wyoming and passed by the Senate on June 13, by the addition of certain enforcement provisions recommended by the Federal Trade Commission.

Owing to the rush of business in the closing hours of the Congress and the fact that these changes had been made, no attempt was made to secure action by the House on the Martin Bill. However, it is not expected that the changes agreed upon by the House subcommittee will cause any delay or difficulty in the passage of the bill through the House at the next session and its subsequent adoption by the Senate.

Congressman Lea, in a press release of June 21, stated the evidence disclosed that about 50 per cent of the fiber used by wool manufacturing industries in this country is other than virgin wool. The total weight of the other fibers used equals our annual wool production.

The amount of reworked wool used equals about 50 per cent of the new wool produced annually in this country. Ordinarily the reworked wool and substitute materials are not distinguishable by the average purchaser. The failure to make proper disclosure

of their presence in fabrics operates not only to the deception of the consumer, but also to the very substantial reduction of the American producers' market for new wool. The intending purchasers do not get the kind of fabric they think they are buying.

Mr. Lea also stated that the subcommittee was unanimous in believing that the situation calls for remedial action to protect the consumer; to protect the market that belongs to the American wool grower; and to give legitimate wool manufacturers protection against these unfair competitive methods.

"The problem for the committee," said Mr. Lea, "is to write supplemental legislation that is practicable from an administrative standpoint, and that will accomplish these purposes without unwarranted hardship to legitimate industry.

"It will not be the purpose of the legislation to prohibit the use of any particular fiber nor to determine the relative merit of any fiber. It is not a question of determining what the purchaser shall buy but simply to put him in position to use his own judgment.

"The general plan of legislation which seems most desirable is to require the label to give proper information to the consumer, and leave the administration of the law to the Federal Trade Commission procedure. Under practice reasonable tolerances could be permitted and there would be suitable discretion to permit flexibility in administration and to avoid the undue hardship that might attend rigid, arbitrary requirements. Practices calculated to deceive the purchaser should be restrained. Penalties should be provided in cases where there are clear evidences of a purpose to defraud or deceive."

### SALE CATALOGS

Catalogs of the 1938 National Ram Sale can be secured by writing the National Wool Growers Association.

This sale offers an opportunity for the sheepman to select his rams from the tops of the best flocks of the country.

"The dates: August 23-24.
The place: Union Stock Yards,
North Salt Lake, Utah.

### Violating Our Constitution

A RTICLE I of the Constitution of the United States says, "No money shall be drawn from the treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law."

The Fathers were much concerned about the authority to appropriate and spend federal money. They knew that the man who had access to the government funds could in the end control the elections and hence make the laws if he needed any. To obviate any danger of such power falling into the hands of any individual the above provision was inserted in the Constitution. And still another one was added providing that laws for raising revenue must originate in the House. The members of the House came direct from the people and were elected every two years: hence, they were supposed to be fearful that the people would fail to elect them if they wasted the public funds and had to levy new taxes to replenish the treasury. Nowhere in the Constitution did the Fathers give the president authority to levy taxes or appropriate the public money. The Fathers had but little faith in rulers even if they elected them by popular vote, or otherwise.

Now the Congress that just adjourned appropriated to the President, \$3,-700,000,000.00 to be spent by him as he sees fit. While this appropriation was made by Congress, it is clearly a violation of the Constitution. When the Constitution said, "No money shall be drawn from the treasury except on appropriation by the Congress," it was trying to say that the money could only be appropriated for certain definite and specific purposes, and that such purposes must be defined in the law making the appropriation. That could have been the only intent of this language. Now, the Constitution has been violated again, this time at a cost of three billion, seven hundred millions to the American taxpayers.

What would the Fathers think of such an appropriation? Not a man in the Constitutional Convention could have comprehended such a sum of money. That is more money probably than had been expended by all the governments of all the world from the beginning of time. What would the Fathers have thought had they suspected that some day a Congress which they were creating would turn such a huge sum over to a president to spend as he saw fit? Well, there would never have been any such president. More than one member of that convention was opposed to giving a president any authority and Madison even proposed that the presidency consist of a commission. Hamilton felt that Washington was the only man who ever had lived or ever would live who was fit to be president. He was probably right. S. W. McClure

### Annual Meeting of Meat Board

ALL officers of the National Live Stock and Meat Board were reelected at its annual meeting in Chicago on June 24. The officers are: Thos. E. Wilson, Chicago, chairman; D. M. Hildebrand, Seward, Nebraska, vice chairman; W. H. Tomhave, Chicago, treasurer; and R. C. Pollock, secretary

and general manager.

In his annual report to the Board, Manager Pollock stated that during the past year the National Live Stock and Meat Board had worked in more cities, reached more persons, and carried on a more extensive program of activities in the interests of meat than in any year in the history of the organization. In driving home the story of meat, members of the Board's staff have conducted meetings before 1,495 audiences in 306 cities of 42 states during the year. Added to the regular program for the year was an emergency campaign carried out to assist the livestock men who were taking serious losses in the sale of their product.

The Board's manager stated that the organization has three big jobs: (1) It must combat anti-meat propaganda. This phase of the program has become of minor importance in recent years since attacks upon meat have been on the decrease. (2) The Board must get the facts about meat, and (3) it must carry these facts to 130 million people.

"Science is helping this far-reaching, fact-finding program for meat," he said. "During the year studies have

been carried on through research grants at three universities. These studies are designed to evaluate meat in the diet—its relation to health. Results secured are showing the outstanding qualities of meat as a food that builds strong, healthy bodies.

"Aside from this phase of research we are working with 21 land grant colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture in meat studies," Manager Pollock reported. work involves the production, processing and cooking of meats and it is furnishing a wealth of ammunition for our educational program. Carried on at colleges from North Dakota to Texas and from New York to Wvoming, these studies are determining the most efficient methods for producing the quality of meat best suited to the needs of the consumer. They range from cost-of-gain studies of meat animals in the feed lot to the tenderness of steaks, chops and roasts on the dining table. The facts being revealed enable us to speak with assurance concerning the livestock and meat industry's finished product-meat."

The report showed that the program for housewives has set a new record this last year. Carried on through various activities this program is teaching the housewife valuable lessons about meat. She is being taught how to select meat, how to determine quality in meat, the place of meat in meal planning, and the value of meat for children. Stress is also being placed on the use of the less-demanded cuts, the methods of meat cookery, foods to serve with meat and other useful information.

In the program for retailers, the Board reached one sixth of the nation's meat dealers this past year through direct contact. These men have been introduced to new cutting methods and new and popular cuts. They have been given instruction on pricing retail cuts and the merchandising of slow-moving cuts. They have been taught the basic principles of meat cookery and the high value of meat as a food. This information is designed to help them do a more efficient job of selling meat.

Recognition of the fact that the dietary habits of the nation are influenced to a marked degree by doctors, dentists, dietitians and nurses has led the Board to devote some of its time and money to telling them the story of meat. Each year these groups are being contacted in increasing numbers and show real interest. In addition to the literature on meat that is furnished them, exhibits have been set up at the annual conventions of such groups as the American Public Health Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Dietetic Association, and the Chicago Dental Society.

Meat lectures and demonstrations, meat judging and identification contests, meat poster contests and meat textbooks have been provided by the Board in interesting the younger generation, the future food buyers of the

nation, in meat.

And as usual large use has been made of exhibits, radio publicity, meat literature, and other media in the extension of the meat program. Fortynine meat exhibits were set up during the year at livestock expositions, fairs, conventions and food shows and 56 new pieces of meat literature were prepared.

### Results of Ozona Ram Sale

Rambouillet sheep changed hands for \$15,213 at the 11th annual Crockett County Sheep Show and Sale in Ozona, Texas, June 23-25. Stud rams averaged \$94.51; 405 range rams, \$22.57; 55 ewes, \$22.67. In the 1937 sale, 41 stud rams averaged \$175 and

406 range rams, \$45.27.

The highest price in this year's sale was \$410, which Roy Hudspeth, Sutton County ranchman, paid for a ram consigned by Claude Hudspeth of Comstock. The grand champion ram of the show, an entry of John Williams of Eldorado, was purchased for \$400 by the Diamond L Ranch of Fort Worth. Lee Drisdale of Juno paid \$375 for a W. S. Hansen (Collinston, Utah) stud, while J. W. Owens of Ozona paid \$350 for the V. I. Pierce (Ozona) stud ram, "Silver Fleece." An entry of Miles Pierce went to Lee Drisdale at \$200. The champion ewe of D. T. Jones and Sons was purchased by the Diamond L Ranch at \$160.



THE 23rd ANNUAL

# NATIONAL RAM SALE

AUGUST 23-24, 1938

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Union Stock Yards, North Salt Lake, Utah

Under the Management of the

# National Wool Growers Association

**ENTRIES CLOSE AUGUST 1, 1938** 

### 1500 TOP RAMS

RAMBOUILLETS SUFFOLKS LINCOLNS ROMELDALES HAMPSHIRES CORRIEDALES PANAMAS CROSSBREDS

Single Studs, Pens of 5 Registered Rams, Pens of 10-25 Range Rams

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WEDNESDAY, August 24

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Suffolks Hampshires Suffolk-Hampshire Crossbreds

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(In each breed, single studs will be sold first, followed by the pens of registered rams and the range pens.)

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509 McCornick Building

Salt Lake City, Utah







# The U.S. Senate Committee Hearings On Wool Marketing

### Selling of Wools Consigned to Dealers

L AST month the Wool Grower gave a general review of the eight sessions of hearings by the U.S. Senate special committee to investigate methods of wool marketing. In this and future issues there will be presented some of the more important parts of the testimony given before that committee.

This month's quotation from the official record of the hearings consists of "A Statement as to Comparative Prices Received by Five Large Dealers and the National Wool Marketing Corporation." This statement was prepared and introduced by the committee's chief investigator, Earl S. Haskell.

It would seem that the question of permitting speculative dealers to act also as commission agents for growers can well be analyzed by a comparison of the prices at which such concerns (consignees) sell their consigned wools, and a comparison of such prices with those received in the same years for wools being handled on speculation. The report to the committee makes such a comparison over three years for only five houses. However, the five houses investigated on this point are among the largest in the business, as the report shows they handled a large percentage of the wools produced in the range states in the years 1933, 1934 and 1935.

Mr. Haskell's report and testimony on this topic was, by agreement, placed in the record at the close of the hearings and the houses named have not yet had opportunity to explain or refute the correctness of the figures taken from their books by the investigators.

On June 3, Mr. Haskell said:

Now, Mr. Chairman, in view of the possibility of a limitation upon the time for hearing, I will present at this time a subject which I had expected to defer until later-a statement as to comparative prices received for purchased and consigned wools by five large dealers and the National Wool Marketing Corporation. It begins on page 87 of the General Report.

As a part of the investigation of the records of five of the larger dealers and the National Wool Marketing Corporation, comprehensive tabulations were made of the sales of territory wools sold during the approximate period of April or May, 1933, to December, 1935, inclusive.

I say "approximate" because they do not commence in all houses in exactly the same month or end with exactly the same month, although very closely. In some cases, due to the dates at which these tabulations were made—that is, for example, S. Silberman & Sons' tabulation was made later than some of the others-we were able to count more months in that period.

The sales were first divided into two broad groups; namely (a) wools sold in original bags, and (b) wools sold from the four or five principal grades, mainly those of staple length. The sales from the minor grades and "offs" were not included in the tabulations.

I might say that these minor grades were omitted because they are of minor importance in point of poundage; but our tabulations of poundages in grading lines by grades would indicate that these four or five staple grades include 80 per cent or more of the grading lines from which these grades came.

Each of these groups was then subdivided into the areas of origin. In a large majority of the cases, the areas followed state boundaries. In each group and area the sales were tabulated in chronological order, by years. Consigned and purchased wools were listed in separate columns, and separate totals and averages for each were later computed.

These original tabulations have been included as exhibits in the reports prepared on the operations of each of the five dealers, and the National Wool Marketing Corporation. Each sale was listed separately, and, in most instances, the tabulations include the serial number of each lot in each sale, together with such details as the sale number, the date of sale, the name of the purchaser, the pounds purchased, the price per pound and the total price, etc.

The wool houses for which these tabulations were made were the following: Adams & Leland; Draper & Co., Inc.; Hallowell Jones & Donald; National Wool Marketing Corporation; S. Silberman & Sons; Studley & Emery.

The sales involved the following quantities of wool, in grease pounds:

Consignments Purchases Five Dealers: Original bag wools\_52,273,797 57,336,956 ....20,532,542 37,243,560 Graded wools National Wool Marketing Corporation: Original bag wools...49,079,306 Graded wools ..... ....24,699,814

\_\_\_\_146,585,459 94,580,516 Total \_\_\_ Grand Total ...... 241,165,975

### Senators Will Continue Wool Inquiry

The following Associated Press dispatch from Washington on June 28 indicates that the Chairman and some other members of the Senate Wool Committee are convinced that there will need to be remedial legislation to ensure fair conditions in wool marketing. This expression is in part at variance with the statement made by Senator Walsh when the hearings were adjourned and printed in the June issue of the Wool Grower:

Adjournment halted but did not terminate the work of the special Senate committee which for more than two years has been investigating dealer practices in marketing the nation's \$100,000,000 domestic shorn wool

clip.

Hearings interrupted by the session end will be resumed again either in the late fall or in January in the hope, said Chairman Adams (D), Colo-rado, that the committee might wind up its work and report its findings to the Senate soon after the recon-

vening of Congress.

Already, said Adams, some practices have been exposed which "ought to be stopped."

He and other committee members have concluded at least tentatively, the chairman added, that enough evidence was presented by investigators during the last session to indicate a need for legislative removal of a "temptation" on the part of dealers to operate to the disadvantage of wool

This was at variance, however, with the view of Senator Walsh (D), Mas-sachusetts, who told newsmen that so far the hearings have developed "nothing that needs immediate cor-rection."

rection.

Besides Walsh and Adams, the committee includes Senators Murray (D), Montana; Hatch (D), New Mexico, and Frazier (R), Indiana. due

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Table No. 27
Comparative Prices Obtained By Six Dealers for Consigned and Purchased Territory Wools Sold During the Years 1933, 1934, and 1935, and for the Three Year Period

			SALES OF	GRADED	WOOLS		
Calendar Years		Adams & Consigned		Draper & Consigned		Hallowel & Do Consigned	mald
16810			Price P	er Pound (			
1933		29.74	28.94	29.69	31.90	28.78	30.59
		29.83	28.23	28.15	32.33	24.82	26.56
			26.23	21.62	27.48	22.79	25.93
Average	A.C. A.D. A.D. C. A. C. A.D. C. C. A.D. C.	25.70	27.24	26.15	29.70	24.44	27.90
1110100			1	Pounds Sold			
1933		1,175,964	1,844,970	372,176	1,268,339	1,288,648	3,047,10
1934		151,931	449,445	625,787	938,765	1,031,863	1,203,68
			3,571,169	566,762	2,377,488	3,640,522	3,339,52
Total		5,784,666	5,865,584	1,564,725	4,584,592	5,961,033	7,590,31
1111	S. Silber		Studley &	Emery	Total, 5 1		National Wool Mktg
		Purchased	Consigned			Purchased	
			Consigned	Purchased			
1933	Consigned		Consigned	Purchased	Consigned		
1933 1934	Consigned 30.92	Purchased	Consigned	Purchased	Consigned (cents)	Purchased	Consigne
	30.92 25.09	Purchased 26.81	Consigned	Purchased Per Pound (	Consigned (cents) 29.85	Purchased 28.52	Consigne
1934	30.92 25.09 23.38	26.81 30.75	Price P	Purchased Per Pound (	Consigned (cents) 29.85 26.04	28.52 29.90	31.21 26.53
1934 1935	30.92 25.09 23.38	26.81 30.75 27.21	Price P	Purchased Per Pound (	Consigned (cents) 29.85 26.04 23.51 25.14	28.52 29.90 26.85	31.21 26.53 24.32
1934 1935 Average	30.92 25.09 23.38 25.05	26.81 30.75 27.21	Price P	Purchased Per Pound (	Consigned (cents) 29.85 26.04 23.51 25.14	28.52 29.90 26.85	31.21 26.53 24.32 26.16
1934 1935 Average 1933	30.92 25.09 23.38 25.05 1,437,836 677,066	26.81 30.75 27.21 27.62 6,174,636 2,945,487	Price F	Purchased Per Pound (	Consigned (cents) 29.85 26.04 23.51 25.14	28.52 29.90 26.85 27.85	26.53 24.32
1934 1935 Average 1933	30.92 25.09 23.38 25.05 1,437,836 677,066	26.81 30.75 27.21 27.62 6,174,636	Price P	Purchased Per Pound (	Consigned (cents) 29.85 26.04 23.51 25.14 4,274,624 2,486,647	Purchased  28.52 29.90 26.85 27.85	31.21 26.53 24.32 26.16 5,136,551 4,574,160

The primary purpose of these tabulations was to compare the prices obtained for consigned and purchased wools of similar descriptions and intrinsic values. It was believed that these comparisons, within a given house, would furnish a fair index of the relative efficiency and fairness with which each house marketed its own wool, and the consignments entrusted to it to dispose of as an agent of the grower.

I would like to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that these relative prices as between houses should not be given significance, for the reason that in some instances there are unquestionably differences in the average clip of wool handled by different houses. Those wools are handled in different manners. For example, in the tabulation of Studley & Emery it is all Texas wool. Texas wool averages higher than the average of territory wools. In the case of S. Silberman & Sons it is virtually all graded wools. Graded wools will average a little higher than original bag wool. So I want to emphasize that it is not a comparison between houses. Any average price between houses should not be, in our judgment, given importance.

When discriminations against the consignments were indicated, these price tabulations furnished the starting point, and an important part of the evidence, from which to analyze the practices through which such discriminations resulted.

Table No. 26, which I shall ask to have inserted in the record, presents the sum-

marized result of these tabulations for all areas as a whole, by years, and for the whole period, for each of the six houses, the original bag and graded wools here being combined. A similar summary for the graded wools alone appears in Table No. 27. The original bag sales are likewise summarized in Table No. 28.

The sales of original bag wools are broken down into fifteen separate areas, or descriptions, for the years 1933, 1934, and 1935, respectively, in Tables Nos. 29, 30 and 31. Similar breakdowns, by areas, for (a) the graded wools, and for (b) the original bag and graded wool combined, for each house separately, are to be found in the respective reports on the operations of these houses.

I might say that those analyses are highly important. The analysis for S. Silberman & Sons was put into the record yesterday. I hope there will be time to present a corresponding analysis for Draper & Company, Inc.

While the average prices obtained by each of these dealers are here brought together, it is not desired to over-stress the comparative prices as between houses. In fact, such comparisons should be made only with decided reservations.

Certain houses habitually handle a higher average quality of wools than do some other dealers. Also, a cooperative, for example, must handle practically any and all clips offered, regardless of the condition or quality. In many cases the cooperative is of-

Table No. 28

Comparative Prices Obtained By Six Dealers for Consigned and Purchased Territory Wools Sold During the Years, 1933, 1934 and 1935, and for the Three Year Period

		-		ORIGIN	IAL BAG	SALES		
Calendar Years		Adams	8z	Leland	Draper &	Co., Inc.		ell, Jones onald
	C			Purchased		Purchased	Consigned	Purchased
				Price Pe	r Pound	(cents)		
1933	* - * - * - * - * - * - * - * - * - * -	27.28		25.68	26.69	23.93	26.81	26.31
1934		23.42		22.10	24.76	24.67	25.20	24.84
1935		21.18		22.78	21.05	24.00	22.78	23.53
Average		22.88		24.29	23.90	24.00	24.17	24.85
				P	ounds Sold			
1933		1,523,8	50	5,198,004	4,435,870	8,389,470	6,493,117	8,082,290
1934		2,611,64	16	943,866	2,914,796	736,563	2,485,694	1,846,751
1935		4,795,3	96	3,431,365	4,929,146	15,215,528	14,238,680	8,875,979
Total	8	,930,89	2	9,573,235 1	2,279,812	24,341,561	23,217,491	18,805,020
Calendar	S. Silbe	erman						National Wool Mktg.
Years		ons Purcha	sed		Emery Purchased	Total, 5 Consigned		Corporation Consigned
				Price Pe	r Pound	(cents)		
1933				30.57	29.65	27.29	25.22	26.15
1934	23.	60 26	.79	28.58	25.38	24.31	24.38	25.72
1935	26.	25 25.	00	24.25	26.38	22.22	23.96	21.89
Average	23.	75 26	.07	26.80	26.66	24.01	24.48	23.53
	-				ounds Sold			
1933				1,759,940	666,051	14,212,777	22,335,815	14,094,425
1934	512,	450 48,	883	3 1,740,883	940,100	10,265,469	4,516,163	5,268,050
	3.0	487 32	590	3,801,842	2,929,516	27,795,551	30,484,978	29,716,376
1935	30,	10/ 229		. , ,				

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The grober Matha bre into

fered various clips which dealers have rejected as being too inferior. Other houses specialize in wools from areas which are known to produce wools of a higher average value than the wools from most of the other territory states. For example, Studley & Evans specialize in Texas wools. But these reservations do not apply, at least to anything like the same extent, to comparisons of prices obtained for consigned and purchased wools by a given dealer.

The comparative average prices obtained for consigned versus purchased wools by each of these dealers have been analyzed in some detail in the separate reports of these houses. These will not be reported here. Also, the comparative prices obtained, as between the different dealers, are analyzed briefly on pages 131-138 of the report on the operations of the National Wool Mar-

keting Corporation.

The analyses referred to indicate that much the fairer and more accurate comparisons for consigned and purchased wools are obtained by comparing the prices for graded wools rather than the prices obtained for wools sold in the original bags. The reason for this—and this I wish to emphasize, Mr. Chairman,—is that the original bag sales include a large volume of "to arrive" sales and order buying, especially in the early months of 1933 and 1935.

That is particularly true of sales of Draper & Company, Inc. I t is not true of at least two or three of the other houses whose records are here analyzed.

Such sales and orders, negotiated early in the season, on rising markets, as they usually are, return lower prices than properly could be expected from consignments marketed after the seasons were further advanced. The fact that wool is consigned implies a desire on the part of the consignor that the sale be deferred.

But territory graded wools are not often sold "to arrive" or delivered on orders, for the reason that such wools usually must be delivered to the dealers' warehouses and undergo the time-consuming process of grading. Graded territory wools do not lend themselves to "to arrive" sales and order buying.

The essential data, pertaining to the sales of territory wools tabulated from the records of the five dealers and the National Wool Marketing Corporation, are shown graphically in a series of 40 large charts in Exhibit D, accompanying this General Report.

Mr. Chairman, I will not, in view of the possibility of limiting the time, take up these charts. They are quite involved and numerous, and would, of course, be very difficult to enter on the record; at least, it would be very expensive. I shall therefore omit further description of and reference to those charts.

That is all that I will offer at this time on that subject. As I say, I hope there will later be an opportunity to present some of the analyses of these comparative prices received by Draper & Company, Inc.

The principal factor involved in the interpretation of this comparative price analysis for Draper & Company, Inc., is the fact that a very high proportion of the wools purchased by Draper & Company, Inc., during the seasons of 1933 and 1935 were sold "to arrive," on rising markets. For this reason the average prices for their purchased wools during those two seasons, particularly 1933, are lower than they would be if the same wools were not sold "to arrive" or "on order."

### Sales of 1934 Wools Controlled by the Wool Advisory Committee

In the spring of 1935 there was wide complaint over the selling of 1934 wools as being done by the consignees approved by the Farm Credit Administration. Under the rules then laid down to govern sales by approved consignees, it was provided that consigned wool should be sold at the same rate

Table No. 38

Rate of Sales of 1934 Consigned and Speculative Wools

	1	Purchases		Free	Consignm	ents	Governmen	t Consign	nments
Approved Consignees (excluding cooperatives)	Secured	Sold	Percent	Secured	Sold	Percent	Secured	Sold	Percent Sold
Adams & Leland	3,005	1,496	50	6,945	2,945	42	4,064	833	20
Chas. P. Boyd	214	190	89	88	5	6	77	4	5
E. J. Burke & Co.		837	93	600	210	35	1,504	1,103	73
Colonial Wool Co.	2,400	1,575	66	2,553	1,710	67	1,894	887	47
Cordingley & Co.	2,042	320	16	3,537	1,429	40	2,312	949	41
Dewey, Gould & Co.	1,838	854	46	4,000	559	14	2,165	683	32
Draper & Co.	6,529	3,988	61	3,487	923	26	4,448	1,928	43
Eisemann Bros.	1,933	60	3	2,834	274	10	8,409	1,513	18
Fallon & Tilton	698	156	22	1,170	275	24	189	13	7
Farnsworth, Stevenson	142	5	4	1,151	201	17	973	86	9
C. J. Fawcett			11	2,672	767	29	3,137	452	14
Hallowell, Jones & Donald	4,320	1,482	34	7,725	1,203	16	8,017	2,333	29
B. Harris Wool Co.		387	12	3,651	244	7	2,077	291	14
James Hewins & Sons	173	57	33	744	171	23	124	121	98
Henry S. Horkheimer		68	6	6			648	39	6
Jos. A. Lehrer		58	15	266			527		****
N. L. Robinson	130	92	71				741	362	49
Sheldon & Co.	413	118	29	991	390	39	665	267	40
S. Silberman & Sons	7,152	2,573	36	5,022	637	13	1,871	227	12
Studley & Emery	3,855	2,417	62	2,599	1,056	41	2,445	887	36
Chas. J. Webb		1,453	68	2,679	269	10	3,685	1,061	29
Western Wool Storage Co.	2,7.70	-,		12	7	58			
Winslow & Co.		1,553	34	2,779	818	29	2,463	. 792	32
Wright Bros.	.,,	437	54	1,121	408	36	944	224	24
Total or average	47,987	20,176	42	56,632	14,501	26	53,379	15,055	27

Source: Questionnaire sent to approved consignees by Wool & Mohair Advisory Committee, at request of F. R. Marshall, a member of the committee.

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and approximately the same times as the wools owned by the dealers themselves. This was to ensure the making of sales of consignments on just as good terms as the purchased wool being handled on speculation. If the consigned wools were actually sold "ratably" with purchased wool the percentage of each class sold at any given time would be the same. As shown in Table 38 from the report of the investigation, on January 23, 1935, the 24 approved consignees had taken advantage of their market to sell 42 per cent of their own wool but only 27 per cent of the government consignments. One house had sold 68 per cent of its owned wool, 29 per cent of government consignments and only 10 per cent of consignments taken without government loans.

This showing bears directly on the question of the desirability or safety of permitting wools to be taken on consignment by houses that at the same time are also doing a speculative business.

The following is from the report of the investigation as it appears in the official record of the hearings before the Senate Committee:

The year 1934 was characterized by almost constantly declining price levels and narrowly restricted volumes of sales. The temptation was strong for many of the consignees to apply their own wools, rather than their consignments, on a relatively few sales that they were able to consummate. For this reason, as the season advanced the position of many of the consignees got seriously out of ratability, in spite of the efforts of the Advisory Committee to persuade the consignees to sell ratably. \* \* \*

However, the consignees' ratability ratios did not tell the full story, since, as has been previously pointed out, the consignees' "free" wools included both dealerowned wools and "free" consignments. The great bulk of the 1934 consignments were carried unsold into the 1935 season. By the end of 1934 the small volume of 1934 consignments which had been sold led to many complaints on the part of consignors. The situation became so serious from the growers' standpoint that the grower-member of the Advisory Committee, Mr. F. R. Marshall, at the beginning of 1935, asked that the consignees be required to furnish a breakdown of their tonnages of "free" wools into (a) consignments, and (b) dealerowned wools. The Advisory Committee, therefore, called upon the consignees for such a breakdown, as of January 23, 1935. The data thus secured and reported to Mr. Marshall are shown in Table No. 38.

So illuminating did this data prove to be that, approximately two months later, Mr. Marshall requested his Committee to ask the consignees for another breakdown of their "free" wool tonnages. This second request led to such strong protests on the part of the consignees that the Advisory Committee decided to relieve the consignees of the obligation to again furnish the requested information. Evidently some of the consignees did not wish to again expose the vulnerability of their positions.

(A questionnaire was sent by the Advisory Committee to the consignees on April 8, 1934. This was canceled by a circular,

dated April 13, 1935, in response to representations made by a committee of consignees at the Advisory Committee meeting of April 12, 1935. See Minutes of the Advisory Committee of April 12, 1935, in Exhibit C-2.)

(Also, see circulars of April 8 and April 13, 1934, issued by the Advisory Committee in Exhibit C-1.)

The data contained in Table No. 38 came to the attention of a United States Senator, who wrote to the Governor of the Farm Credit Administration requesting that he be furnished with the data which had been refused to Mr. Marshall. The Farm Credit Administration, however, declined to comply with this request.

# Headquarters for the 74th National Convention

THE Executive Committee of the National Wool Growers Association, at its meeting following the close of the annual convention in January, selected San Angelo, Texas, as the site of the Association's next annual gathering. While the dates have not yet been decided upon, local committees have chosen the Hotel Cactus as convention headquarters.

Mr. Dallas F. Wales is manager of the Cactus Hotel, and his genial personality in combination with the commodious quarters offered by the hotel is promise enough of a very pleasant time for all convention guests.



The
Hotel
Cactus,
San Angelo,
Texas

# around the

# RANGE COUNTRY

### WESTERN TEXAS

The weather was warmer than usual through most of June, promoting the growth of forage and crops, where water was plentiful. However, rains were light or missing during the early weeks, especially in the southwestern part of this area. Later in the month showers became more general, and most districts received helpful moisture, advancing the growth of grass materially. Livestock are in fair to good shape, and are improving in some sections.

### ARIZONA

The first week was abnormally warm, but the rest of the month was about normal, in point of temperature ranges. Practically no rain occurred during the month of consequence to livestock interests, until the closing week, when beneficial showers occurred over the mountain ranges of the northern and eastern portions. Livestock, being confined chiefly to the more elevated areas where forage is better, are in fairly good condition, but the range needs rain nearly everywhere.

### **NEW MEXICO**

Temperatures were abnormally high through most of the month, particularly in the middle and eastern counties. Showers occurred frequently in the elevated parts of the state and over the northeastern portion generally; but as a rule, more rain was needed until the closing week, when heavy to excessive rains occurred locally over the middle and eastern portions from Colorado to the Rio Grande. Ranges are consequently improving, at least for the present. The second alfalfa having was interrupted by rains. Livestock are in good condition, as a general rule.

### Lon

The first half of June was very dry, causing lambs to suffer. Since June

20, however, we have had soaking rains and conditions today (the 30th) are the best in the last three years. Summer range is assured now.

Having lambed late this year, in June, we struck the worst period possible—very dry and windy—and as a result we only have a 65 per cent lamb crop as against 80 per cent in 1937. In breeding we usually use three rams to one hundred ewes.

Some sales of wools shrinking 67 to 70 per cent have been made at 15 to 18 cents. Much of the wool is being handled through the National Wool Marketing Corporation.

Coyotes are more numerous than usual.

F. W. Haegler

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of June.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

### Willard

### (Torrance County)

We have been having dry weather and feed is scarce on the range. Last night, June 28, we had our first rain in some time.

Our lamb crop is about 25 per cent short of last year's. No contracts have been made so far on lambs of any kind.

There haven't been any sales of wool that I know of; most of the growers, I think, will take a government loan.

H. H.

### Yeso

### (De Baca County)

On the first of June weather and feed conditions were deplorable; during the last week, however, we have had some good grass rains, but not enough to fill tanks (June 29).

The average lamb crop this year is around 50 per cent as against 80 per cent last year. Lambing conditions in this section were the worst in history.

No contracts have been made on feeder lambs, although five to six cents is being quoted.

Haven't heard of a single sale of wool. Everyone is storing his wool and getting a loan. I do not know how many will take advantage of the government loan.

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### COLORADO

The first week was abnormally warm; thereafter temperatures averaged about normal. The first half of the month was dry, but there were scattered showers over the state during the latter half of the month. Cool weather during the showers retarded vegetation at the higher elevations. Most ranges and pastures are in good condition; and corn and other feed crops have done well. Livestock are in thriving condition.

### UTAH

Abnormally warm, dry weather prevailed. The first ten days were especially warm, though once or twice thereafter minimum values dropped close to the frost point. Showers occurred over the northwestern portion during the early or middle parts of the month, but they were light; heavier showers reached the eastern and southern portions near the close, improving range forage. Livestock are doing well. A considerable tonnage of hay was damaged by rain.

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### Lyman (Wayne County)

Weather and feed conditions on the low ranges are much better than for several years past (June 1). Most of the flocks are averaging a 10 to 20 per cent larger yield of lambs than in 1937.

We haven't had any trappers here, with the exception of the PWA men, who are not very successful in the work, and so coyotes are increasing and giving us more trouble.

S. F. Allen

### Roosevelt (Duchesne County)

Range feed is extra good this season and in general June has been a better month this year than last.

We had a good lambing season and have marked about a 98 per cent crop. There is no activity here in connec-

tion with either lambs or wool. A good many of the growers will use the wool loan under the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Coyotes are more numerous because no trapping has been done here.

Leonard Boren

### **NEVADA**

Unusually warm weather early in the month was followed by a cool spell, and by normal temperatures the last week. Light but rather general showers occurred each week, maintaining a comparatively good condition of forage and water supplies. Livestock have held up in good condition practically everywhere. Some hay was spoiled by rain. Haying was a few weeks earlier than usual,

### Elko (Elko County)

June weather and feed conditions have been better than in previous years; spring range feed has been very good. Conditions were favorable for lambing and the yield was larger than last year's. We use two rams to a hundred ewes in breeding.

A few sales have been reported in this section of wools shrinking 66 per cent at 19½ cents. Many of the growers will use the CCC loan. Contracting of lambs has not commenced here yet.

As a result of our open winter, the coyotes have been less troublesome.

### CALIFORNIA

Temperatures were above normal over the interior valleys during the entire month, being about 10 degrees above normal during the first half. As a consequence, the coastal counties of the middle and northern portion suffered cool foggy weather. Only light scattered showers occurred, which were of little consequence. The hay harvest progressed with little interference. Pastures and ranges are mostly quite dry, though feed is abundant, and livestock are doing well.

### **OREGON**

The first week was warm, but the rest of the month was cool, only the last week showing a rise in temperature. Light frosts occurred in the higher elevations. The first half of the month was without rain, but the third week brought generous showers locally, improving forage, to a limited extent. Haying was delayed, but little hay was damaged. Livestock are doing well, as range feed is generally ample.

# Elgin (Union County)

Spring range feed has been good, the same or better than in 1937, and the summer range should provide plenty of forage.

Our lamb crop is about the same size as last year's. Some fat lambs have been contracted here at \$5.50. I haven't heard of any transactions in straight ewe lambs or in feeders. Some fine to medium wool has sold here at 16 to 17 cents. My wool is consigned to the Pacific Wool Growers at Portland.

We think that coyotes must be drifting in here from other sections as well as increasing naturally, they are becoming so numerous.

F. H. Fager

### WASHINGTON

The first ten days were abnormally warm, but the rest of the month's temperatures were near normal. The weather was dry until after the 15th, when showery conditions set in over the eastern portion of the state, improving farm crops and refreshing native forage and farm pastures. Some hay was damaged and other crop in-

jury was reported due to rain. Livestock continue in good condition.

### IDAHO

Temperatures ranged but little from normal values, with a few warm spells and as many cool periods of little note. Precipitation was mostly light and scattered, a little occurring each week, but mostly in the last two weeks. Ranges and meadows were improved by the later rains, and livestock are doing well in all sections of the state. Some hay was spoiled by rain, and haying was hampered by rainy weather. Livestock are thriving.

### MONTANA

The first week was abnormally warm, and sunny, but without rain, while the subsequent weeks were rather cool, as a rule, with occasional showers over the state generally, improving range forage conditions. The last week was the wettest of the season to date. Some hail and rain damage was reported. A considerable tonnage of hay was spoiled, and haying was hampered materially. Livestock are in splendid condition, with plenty of grass and water.

### WYOMING

Temperatures ranged near normal values, with the warmest weather during the first week or ten days. Precipitation occurred mostly in the closing half of the month, resulting in some damage. There is a heavy crop of grass practically everywhere, and livestock are in excellent condition. Only in the higher elevations has it been a little too cool for the best forage growth.

### Buffalo (Johnson County)

On the whole June has been a month of ample moisture and favorable conditions for the development of summer ranges, and the completion of the late shearing. However, there are some dry spots developing, with reports of some infestation of hoppers and crickets (July 3).

Shearing has been completed for some days, and wool has been selling freely at from 16 to 18½ cents per pound. The wool market has braced

somewhat the last few days, with a Boston dealer paying the latter figure for two clips of wool.

I estimate that about 25 per cent of the wool from this section has been tied up under the government loan. A small portion of this government-loan wool went east on consignment, while a larger portion has been consigned to a wool sales concern in Denver.

A string of black-faced feeder lambs have been contracted for fall delivery at 5½ cents. An offer of 5¾ cents has been reported on a pool of 30,000 lambs for fall delivery.

No sales of stock sheep have been reported; however, some yearling ewes are being offered for fall delivery.

R. L. Greene

### Dr. Bell's Super-Sheep

THE late Dr. Alexander Graham
Bell, inventor of the telephone,
was a remarkable man in many respects. When I lived in Washington,
D. C., I was often at his home. He
kept open house for all those engaged
in scientific work. He was well posted
on developments in nearly every branch
of science. In Darwin's time he would
have been called a "naturalist."

Dr. Bell had a summer home for many years in Cape Breton up near Nova Scotia, on the eastern coast of Canada. He became interested in the unimproved native sheep he found there and, partly for pastime and partly to study the laws of inheritance in animals, he started mating ewes having rudimentary teats in addition to the regular equipment of two, with rams from the same kind of mothers. He soon had some ewes that gave milk from three or four teats.

In a number of magazines there have lately appeared very glowing accounts of the great economic value of the sheep bred up by Dr. Bell. Some enthusiastic space writers are telling the world that these sheep have brought a new day in the production of lamb and wool; that soon all the ewes will produce twins, and chops and clothing will come down in price.

Of course a slight acquaintance with facts of sheep husbandry would have headed off these fine writings. But why spoil a good story when the editor knows no better and will pay well, and much of the reading public will applaud the great accomplishments of science in aiding the benighted farmer.

It was Dr. Bell's idea that the number of nipples on a ewe might control or be associated with the number of lambs she could produce at a birth. He wanted to test the scientific truth of this idea. The stories say he got his ewes up to an average of 5.3 nipples each, and that after 27 years they were producing twins half of the time, which would not be a surprising result from breeding two-nippled sheep for so long a period solely for the purpose of increasing fecundity.

Since 1923 the Bell flock has been kept at the New Hampshire Experiment Station, and mated with a breed developed there from a Southdown-Rambouillet cross. And now, the wonder writers startle us with the fact that after 52 years of breeding for more twins "the flock now drops twins slightly less than 70 per cent of the time and occasionally triplets occur"!

Just as though there are not already several breeds, and really improved, that can be made to do 170 per cent under farm conditions!

As to the wool or mutton merit of that mediocre 170 per cent lamb crop deponent sayeth not. And perhaps I had better refrain from saying a lot of smart things that might be in order, except this:

Oh science! Oh agriculture! What perfidies are committed in thy names! F. R. M.

### **More Conservation**

A GROUP of New Dealers in Washington recently made the discovery that our supply of phosphate rock was rapidly being exhausted and something must be done before election to conserve this supply. The President sent a message to Congress dealing with the subject and suggested measures be taken to assure future generations a supply of phosphate.

The investigation reveals that we have in the United States only sufficient phosphate rock to meet our needs for 2,000 years. It is now believed that people living in the United States in the year 4000 will suffer greatly for

want of food and clothing because of an impoverished soil. To meet this serious situation and save us from starvation it is now proposed to build great power plants at public expense and convert this rock into fertilizer. Unfortunately, our soil is now so rich that the government is compelled to pay millions of farmers not to produce.

The conservation of phosphate rock is just as silly as most of the conservation propaganda spread around from time to time. Fortunately for America and the world these conservationists did not become fashionable until 25 vears ago, or until we had converted a desolate continent into the most prosperous nation in the world solely by developing our natural resources. The main difference between the economics of the Indian and the white man was one of conservation. The Indians believed in conservation—the white man believed in development. The Indian possessed this continent for 20,000 vears and at the end of that time it was still a desolate waste which supported on a starvation scale fewer than 800,000 Indians on the entire continent. Under the white man's program of developing and using our natural resources, we have in 300 years made this the richest nation in the world with a population of 125 million people, a considerable portion of which we can now afford to keep without work.

About all civilization amounts to is the development of the natural resources of the earth and the development of machines to convert these resources into a form more convenient for human use. The nation that fails to use its resources at a time and in the manner demanded by that time has forever lost the right to use them. An age of steel and cement has no place for such a perishable commodity as lumber. Lumber had its day and the tree that was not cut simply lost its place in nature's scheme of things. Its time will never come again. Its principal use from here on will be to furnish shade for W.P.A. workers. The remarkable thing about the commercial use of natural resources is that not a single one of them ever has been exhausted or seriously depleted. They seem to be like our gold supply-inex-S. W. McClure haustible.



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Senator Tom Connally
(Texas)



Senator H. H. Schwarts
(Wyoming)



Senator Burton K. Wheeler (Montana)



Senator Pat McCarran (Nevada)



Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney
(Wyoming)

## MEMBERS OF MAJORITY IN CONGRESS

Who Were Helpful in Sheep and Wool Affairs During Last Session

Work at Washington during the 75th session of Congress in the interest of wool growers and in which the Senators and Representatives presented here were particularly active included:

- (1) Placing the Wool Top Futures Exchange under the Supervision of the Commodity Exchange Administration.
- (2) Securing the Wool Loan.
- (3) Providing for the Collection of Proper Duties on Carpet Wool Products when used in the Manufacture of Clothing.
- (4) Advancing Fabric Legislation to a point that insures Enactment of Law at Next Session.
- (5) Presenting Growers' Position in connection with Trade Agreements with Canada and United Kingdom.



Senator Alva B. Adams (Colorado)



Hon. R. M. Kleberg



Hon. John A. Martin



Hon. Clarence F. Lea



Senator Carl A. Hatch (New Mexico)

### **Wool Market News**

(Commercial Bulletin, July 9)

OPERATIONS in the West have slowed down. There has been a fairly good clearance of wool, however, in the last three weeks in the West at prices which are about 15 per cent on the average above the recent low point.

In Texas it is calculated that there is about 25 million pounds of wool left, of which 5 million is of eightmonths' growth and 20 million of 12-months' growth. The eight-months' wool is mostly under government loans, it is said, and of the 12-months' wool, about 5 million pounds appears to have gone under government loans.

For the 12-months' wools in Texas, Wyoming and Montana the prices being paid at the moment are usually around 21 cents with an extreme high of 22¾ cents and low points of 18 to 19 cents for inferior wools, depending upon what they may be. In Montana the better fine and half-blood clips are fetching around 21½ cents. Average to good fine and fine medium wools in New Mexico have been moving around 58 to 60 cents clean basis at Boston with ordinary and inferior lots around 55 to 57 cents clean.

### (New York Wool Top Exchange Service, July 8)

Following weakness during the first of June, when several new lows for the year were established, wool top futures at New York steadied and in the last two weeks of the month recorded substantial gains in greatly increased activity. At the close of the month, the nearby contract was up 6.3 cents from its low of the period, and 4.8 cents net. The nearby contract closed at 78.0 cents, compared with 73.2 one month previous, 77.6 two months previous, 109.5 one year previous, and 94.5 two years previous. Sales on the exchange increased sharply and represented about 8,485,000 pounds of wool top, compared with 4,-970,000 in May, and 1,565,000 in June last year.

Wool goods markets this week were more active as buyers sent in duplicate orders on fall goods. The reopening of a number of important clothing factories after a long period of idleness resulted in a quickening of deliveries by mills. Spot business was brisk with jobbers the main beneficiaries.

Few mills are reported as having goods in stock, having cleared remaining inventories weeks ago, with the result that buyers in need of goods for quick delivery are compelled to fall back on jobbers. Judging from the business placed this week, a large number of mills will be forced to step up production next month and the majority might be expected to be operating full time in September. While prices on piece goods were firmer, advances were few and far between. Quotations on manufactured products are not keeping pace with the rise in the raw material. Once mills have booked substantial business, however, prices may be expected to rise for few, if any, mills are reported able to squeeze a profit out of sales at current prices.

### **Lamb Contract Report**

THE government special western sheep and lamb contract report for the week ended July 9 contained the following statements:

In California, the bulk of wooled lambs are originating in the North Coast section, with most shipments reaching South San Francisco and Los Angeles. Prices have advanced around 50 cents per hundred on wooled good to choice 75-85 pound lambs since the first of the month. In northeastern California, feed conditions are above average, recent rains were timely, and some sizable bands of lambs were bought on fat contract at \$6.50 per hundred for the Bay district during July. Some contracts specify eighty per cent fat lambs and twenty per cent feeders at \$5.00.

In the Willamette Valley, Oregon, dry weather and infestations have changed an early favorable prospect to a feeding lamb basis; bulk of fat lambs around \$5.00 to \$5.50 fairly well cleaned up; some small ranch bands of feeding lambs available.

Scattered showers to substantial rains over Wyoming during the week served to maintain very good range conditions over most of Wyoming. Some localities, however, are very dry. All range livestock is in good condition, and present indications are for a good percentage of fat lambs and strong feeder weights this fall. Rather broad corn belt feeder-lamb contracting demand developed during the week, and a

sizable volume of contracting developed at a new high price for the season. In the north central area, trade interests estimated upward of 30,000 head of lambs, mostly whitefaces, contracted for October 1st to 10th delivery at \$6 per hundred. Very few ewe lambs were included in contracts. Bids of \$6 were also reported as quite general in central sections of the state at the week end, but very few deals were being closed. Dealing in other classes of sheep continued practically at a standstill.

In the intermountain area ranges continued in good condition, with rains in practically all sections during the current week. The contracting of lambs or sheep for future delivery has been very limited, with few deals reported during the week.

In northern Utah, a few inquiries have been made for feeder lambs around \$5.50 per hundred, but growers seem reluctant to contract lambs now at that figure.

In western and southwestern Wyoming, some lamb buyers have offered \$5.50 to \$5.75 per hundred for future delivery, but no contracts were reported drawn at these bids.

In northwestern Colorado, no activity was reported on the contracting of lambs. Last year at this time, several thousand feeder lambs were held on contract for September delivery to midwestern feeders at \$9-\$9.25 per hundredweight.

### Rambouillet Association Meeting

PRESIDENT Owens of the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Association has announced that the 49th annual meeting of that association will take place in San Angelo, Texas, on the evening of July 21. This is the first time the association has met in Texas and a large representation of Rambouillet breeders over the country is expected. Mr. J. W. Owens has the distinction of being the first Texas man to serve as president of the organization.

### Livestock Inspector Retires

DR. F. E. Murray, inspector in charge of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry at Salt Lake City, announced his retirement from government service on July 1. He was succeeded by Dr. H. H. Cohenour, formerly inspector in charge of the bureau's office at Bismark, N. D.

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## GRAZING

### **MANAGEMENT**

Results of Experiments Conducted at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho, As Reported at Field Day Program, June 9-10, 1938



Two hundred visitors attended the annual field day program at the U. S. Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho, June 9 and 10. Part of the crowd is shown above at one of the range projects.

IN 1923 the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, with the cooperation of the Bureau of Animal Industry and the University of Idaho Extension Service, inaugurated at the United States Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho, a series of experiments in the management of range lands to determine the best methods to maintain and improve their forage yields. Four projects have been included in this work: (1), the relative effects of fall and spring grazing; (2), the relative effectiveness of rotation rotation-deferred systems of spring-grazing management; (3), the use of fire in the management of sagebrush-grass ranges; (4), reseeding depleted range lands with crested wheat grass. The conclusions reached or indicated in the development of these projects thus far were presented to the public in a field-day program at the Idaho station on June 9 and 10.

Interest in this work of the government agencies was shown by the assemblage of 200 sheepmen, foresters, university and college men from Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Canada. A caravan of 52 cars carried the visitors from one project to another. The first stop was at the site of range lands used in studying the relative effects of spring-fall grazing.

### Spring-Fall Grazing

The experiment to determine the relative effects of spring and fall graz-

ing under an intensity commonly used on the surrounding range lands, was initiated in 1923. Two 80-acre areas have been used, one grazed only in the fall, and the other in both spring and Both areas produced the same amount of forage at the beginning of the experiment, but during the 15-year period (1923-1937) the tract grazed at both seasons averaged only 35 sheep-days feed per acre per year while the tract used only in the fall provided an average of 51 sheep-days feed per acre per year. Stated in another way, the use of the grazing land in the spring was held responsible for 32 per cent less grazing use over the 15-year period than that obtained from the plot used only in the fall.

However, according to measurements made of the 1938 grazing capacities of the two areas, the usable forage on the spring-grazed plot is but 15 per cent of the tract used only in the fall. From the table (page 18), it will be seen that the total herbage production and plant cover have remained about the same in the two areas, there being but 400 pounds more herbage per acre on the fall-grazed than on the spring-grazed area. However, the plants making up the cover on the two areas are markedly different. Under spring grazing palatable grasses have been reduced in number and vigor with the result that herbage production is from one half to one third that of grasses on the fall-grazed area. Palatable weeds have been almost totally annihilated by injudicious spring grazing. Accompanying these drastic reductions in production of grasses and weeds has been a definite increase in the shrubby cover. Sagebrush and rabbitbrush produce more than twice as much herbage on spring-grazed areas as on fall grazed areas. This increased production of shrubs tends to offset the decrease in grass and weed herbage production with the total result that total plant cover remains about the same.

But from the standpoint of forage production the story differs. Replacement of valuable palatable species such as bluebunch wheatgrass, Junegrass, ricegrass, bluegrass, balsamroot, hawksbeard, and other grasses and weeds by such unpalatable shrubs as sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and horsebrush has caused a sharp decrease in forage production. Not only is the value for forage a factor in the reduction of grazing capacity but the increase in unpalatable shrubs is rendering much of the forage produced on the spring-grazed area unavailable for sheep grazing. The joint effect of decreased forage value and hindrance of use resulting from replacement of valuable grasses and weeds by less valuable shrubs is responsible for the forage production on the spring-grazed area being but 15 per cent of that on the fall-grazed area.



Contrast between fall and spring-grazed range lands at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station. At the right is shown the area that was grazed heavily during the entire spring season and again in the fall. The area at the left was not grazed in the spring but fully used in the fall.
Grasses and weeds, abundant and vigorous in this area,
are almost lacking in the spring-fall grazed tract.

On the other hand, fall grazing, with no grazing whatever in the spring period has been fully supported, even when grazing has been repeatedly and intensively practiced. There has, however, always been left on the ground a remnant of seasonal growth which has served as a protection. It is the opinion of station officials that a remnant of somewhere near 20-30 per cent is required for plant protection.

Fall grazing, however, is not a suitable range practice as animals must have feed in spring as well as fall. Some arrangement is recommended, therefore, which will provide the necessary range protection and also provide spring feed. This arrangement is provided for in a series of pastures at the Idaho station which provide for rotation of the spring grazing period.

### Rotation and Deferred Grazing

When spring grazing takes place repeatedly, that is, year after year, at the same stage of plant development, plants have been so greatly weakened as to be unable to maintain their forage production. Consequently, rotation has been provided whereby a range which is grazed early this spring is grazed at a later period in the following spring. At the U.S. Sheep Station the experiment in operation divided the spring period into four divisions; the one grazed first, April 25 to May 10, this spring is grazed fourth, June 10 to June 25, next spring. In succeeding springs parts 2 and 3 and 4 are respectively grazed first. The arrangement is so made that each area is grazed in the first, April 25 to May 10; fourth, June 10 to June 25; third, May 25 to June 10: and second, May 10 to May 25. periods respectively in four years.

Another experiment also being conducted and one which is considered as yielding still better results than the ordinary rotation of spring grazing just described is designated by the term "deferred spring rotation grazing." In this case the spring period is divided into three periods and the range into four areas as just described. The fourth area is not grazed at all in the spring. but is fully grazed in the fall. By maintaining a rotation including this deferred area, that is, the one that is grazed only in the fall, pastures are grazed in the following order: early, deferred (no spring grazing), mid-spring, and late spring. This practice has been used not only in experimental pastures, but on the Sheep Station as a whole, and has allowed a great recuperation of forage production.

The sheep have obtained both spring and fall grazing at the station, have been grazed on the national forests in summer and have been in the winter supplied with feed partly on winter ranges, and partly by means of purchased hay. The important point, however, is that the Sheep Station ranges have greatly increased at the same time that they have been grazed, and during a period of years in which occurred the worst drought since settlement.

### Use of Fire in the Management of Sagebrush-Grass Ranges

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Guests of the Dubois Station field days were also shown the possibility of the benefits of fire in the management of sagebrush-grass ranges. In 1932 studies were initiated in Fremont County in cooperation with the Fremont wool growers and the State of Idaho to determine whether fire could be successfully used to remove sagebrush from native range areas. These studies conducted during the period of 1932 to 1937 indicated that where certain prerequisites were satisfactorily used fire might, as an agent for the removal of sagebrush, prove beneficial as a measure of range improvement. Since the studies on the Fremont County

### Comparison of Herbage Yields and Forage Production on Spring and Fall-Grazed Range Lands — 1938

		erbage in per acre	Usable forage in pounds per acre		
	Fall-Grazed Area	Spring-Fall Grazed Area	Fall-Grazed Area	Spring-Fall Grazed Area	
Grasses (1)	562.7	209.8	268.5	50.7	
Weeds (2)	930.6	69.6	311.5	7.3	
Shrubs (3)	655.9	1,463.6	17.5	33.6	
All vegetation	2,149.2	1,743.0	597.5	91.6	

(1) Bluebunch wheatgrass, Junegrass, Indian ricegrass, bluegrass and needle-and-thread.

(2) Arrowleaf balsamroot, hawksbread, pentstemon, groundsel.
(3) Threetip sagebrush, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, spineless horsebrush.

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areas were conducted under only one set of conditions it was deemed necessary to extend the studies, in order that results might be more intelligently applied to other areas. Accordingly nine sections of land upon which sagebrush was extremely heavy were set aside for the study of the use of fire in sagebrush removal. These nine sections are to be handled in such a manner that one section will be burned in each of nine separate years. This is being done to determine whether on ranges in the vicinity of the Sheep Station sagebrush removal by fire will be successful every year or whether climate plays an effective part in determining its success.

The first of these sections, section 15, was burned in August, 1936. It is readily apparent from an inspection of the unburned areas adjacent to section 15 that prior to the burning an excellent stand of palatable grass species grew beneath the understory of sagebrush. Not only were the grasses abundant in the original cover of vegetation, but many palatable weeds were present.

present.

In terms of herbage production grass formed 28 per cent, weeds 11 per cent, and shrubs 61 per cent of the original stand. It is apparent, however, that in its present state the heavy cover of sagebrush prevents the efficient use of palatable grass and weeds.

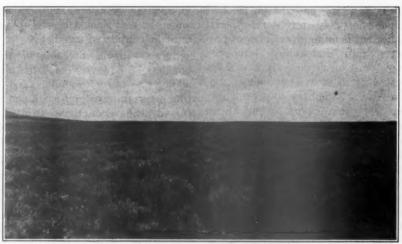
In contrast to the unburned areas, areas where sagebrush has been removed present a picture of a waving sea of grass with fair admixture of weeds and almost totally unmarred by the presence of sagebrush. In comparison with the original stand total plant cover is apparently about the same on burned and unburned areas. This is confirmed by experimental data which indicate that approximately one ton of herbage per acre is produced on both burned and unburned areas. However, in contrast to the unburned areas. grasses now produce 1,100 pounds of herbage per acre or 57 per cent of the total per acre production on burned areas. Now shrubs form only 15 per cent of the total production, this being largely made up of rabbitbrush and horsebrush.

With the exception of two grass species, removal of sagebrush has promoted the increase of grass production and apparently has more than doubled the production of weeds. These two species of grass, bluebunch fescue and needlegrass, have apparently suffered damage, the damage to fescue being rather serious. Not only has the replacement of relatively unpalatable sagebrush by palatable grass and weed species been followed by a marked increase in the production of forage, but the removal of sagebrush has made available nearly all of the vegetation. The joint action of these two results has been to increase the production of usable forage from 343 to 846 pounds per acre, an increase in grazing capacity of nearly 150 per cent. This increase has taken place in a 2vear period.

In brief, then, the results from the removal of sagebrush have been the replacement of sagebrush by palatable grasses and weeds, an increase in graz-

the absence of further information, several conditions as prerequisites must be satisfied before burning is to be advocated as a method for removing sagebrush. These are: (1) that an abundance of grasses known to be not harmed by the use of fire occupy the area; (2) that control of grazing be such that no grazing of the area be permitted for one year before the burning; (3) that soil is of such texture that it doesn't present a serious erosion hazard when exposed to the action of wind; (4) that bluebunch fescue or other species on which fire is known to have a detrimental effect do not form a large percentage of the composition of the area; (5) that control of fire to certain specified areas may be exer-

Since one of the most important prerequisites of the successful use of fire in the removal of sagebrush is protection of the burned area from grazing use for the first year after burning or until the surviving grass and weed spe-



Right, range land two years after sagebrush has been burned off. Note the abundant growth of grass. Left, the growth of sagebrush on an unburned area.

ing capacity and removal of big sagebrush which forms a serious hindrance to the handling of sheep where areas of big sagebrush have increased to any great extent.

Certain conditions indicated by the results of burning on the Fremont County area have been more or less confirmed by the results from the burn on the Sheep Station range. In

cies regain their vigor, provision must be made under ordinary operations to supply feed equivalent to the feed value of the area burned. Seldom is the average individual able to provide enough substitute feed in this manner to permit the burning of the entire area upon which the livestock normally feed during the spring season.

(Continued on page 34)

# BREEDING RAMBOUILLETS

# For Wool and Mutton.

By Mr. W. G. Kammlade,

Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah

DISCUSSIONS pertaining to sheep may be credited with having two sides. In the minds of many people the two sides of a question are generally "my side and the wrong side." In talking about Rambouillet breeding plans I am of course presenting "my side" and I am sure that to some of you this will be the wrong side. However, the discussion may be worth while even if it does nothing more than strengthen your conviction that your side is the right side.

There are certain facts upon which our opinions or judgments regarding breeding may be based and our judgments are no better than the facts on which they are based. As facts, I include not only results of special studies but definite experiences of producers and, that which astonishes people most of all these days, perhaps because of its scarcity, namely, common sense. I shall try to present certain facts in support of my main thesis, which is: that the real value of an animal depends upon the quantity and quality of the products which it yields under any existing conditions. Applied to a sheep: how much and what kind of lamb and wool can it produce each year under any local conditions? This is a problem confronting all producers. It will continue to confront them and the degree to which they are able to develop their flocks in these respects will always be an important item in measuring their success. (I do not overlook the importance of external economic factors.)

Are there some guide posts founded on investigations, experiences and common sense that indicate the general direction that efforts in Rambouillet breeding should take? Such guide posts do exist but those based on investigational work particularly are scattered rather widely and often the directions are in a language foreign to those seeking guidance. Often, too, so many figures and calculations accompany the directions that it is difficult to discern clearly the route.

Furthermore, we are sometimes (perhaps far too often) inclined to place too much emphasis upon one guide post or factor alone. This overemphasis on one thing may take us too far in one direction—far beyond where another guide post says "the road turns here." A detour may be the sign of progress. One guide post or factor alone is not sufficient—all of them must be considered together.

Success in the breeding of Rambouillets is, however, not a matter of adding one factor to another and getting a certain sum or something. Success depends upon the control of all factors and upon bringing them into proper relationship with each other.

Let me illustrate what I mean by using two horses as examples. All are more or less familiar with a score card in which certain values are assigned to the various parts which make up an animal. Suppose for illustration, we assign five points to each foot, with eighty points to all other parts of the animal. One horse has a considerable number of minor defects in various parts, and his total score is eighty-five. The other horse is perfect in all respects except one foot which is so defective that the horse cannot walk upon it at all. His score is ninetyfive. Which is the better horse?

One factor—perhaps not so very significant in itself—may, in spite of the excellence of all other factors, make a thing worthless or ruin a business. All factors properly interacting

make success. Please keep that in mind as we shall refer to it later.

The seeking of types which are most profitable under existing local conditions is an endless job for the producer, for the tendency of animals to vary makes it impossible ever to say "the "job is done." And as the old man who was sorting apples remarked when some one asked him if it was hard work, "No, it ain't hard work but it's a terrible strain on the judgment." Such the breeding of sheep, and especially of Rambouillet sheep, for lamb and wool will always be.

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There is among the breeders of Rambouillets, and those who use this breed for commercial lamb and wool production, much discussion about how these sheep do or do not meet present conditions. The difference of opinion seems to be greater among the breeders of pure bred Rambouillets than it is among the commercial sheep raisers, but it exists among both groups, The needs of the latter will be of most importance in the final outcome. Ultimately the breed and type must make good as producers for the lamb and wool markets or give way to other breeds and types that will.

Change always has been the forerunner or companion of progress. Similarly change, in the wrong direction, or of too great degree, may mean the beginning of destruction rather than progress. Oftentimes change does not have to be extreme to be important either as a means of progressive improvement or as a forerunner of ruin. The great production problem confronting the Rambouillet producers today is the matter of breeding and what to seek in their breeding. Worshipping the god of things as they are or have been, and citing past instances of achievement will not do, but there are

<sup>\*</sup>An address delivered at the 73rd annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 27, 1938.

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some things about the past which must not be forgotten.

### The Early Rambouillet

The development of the Rambouillet was begun one hundred and fifty years ago because the Merino of that time did not meet the conditions of most profitable sheep production. A larger and more muttony type, carrying a heavy fine fleece, was needed. Because the Rambouillet was larger and vielded a better carcass, and had practically all the wool features of the Merino besides, it found a large place in the sheep industry of the United States. When the Rambouillet first gained recognition from the market sheep raiser, it was as a "mutton Merino." It was generally accorded superior merit compared with the Merino in two respects: size and meat type, but it was also accorded a high rating as a wool producer. Certain conditions caused sheep raisers who supplied the general market to seek and use rams which had these qualities of size, meatiness and heavy fleeces of fine wool. For the time the factors were in proper relationship. Some producers turned to the black-faced mutton breeds, some to the long-wool breeds. Some efforts were soon directed toward the combining of the features of various breeds into new breeds Some growers because of their conditions needed a fine-wool type and in some cases the Delaine was suitable, but in the majority of cases the Rambouillet's greater size and mutton qualities combined with wool qualities made a strong appeal. It was not one thing alone.

Then men who had formerly raised Merinos turned to the Rambouillet. Some of these breeders displayed their productions at fairs and expositions and judges did, and often still do, emphasize wool qualities to a greater extent than meat qualities in making awards. In many cases mutton qualities were taken for granted or attempts were made to shear and trim them into the show sheep to a passable degree by skillful shepherds. Fleeces were reained on show and sale sheep for such ong periods and attained such great engths that the judges, owners or any

one else could not determine satisfactorily what the real form of the sheep might be. Naturally the first thing looked at—the fleece—was emphasized, and the combination of things mutton and wool—which first made the breed popular was in many cases practically ignored.

At the insistence of some breeders, "B" and "C" type classifications at fairs were provided and in some cases sheep were aided in meeting the requirements of the classes by the use of shears.

(I hardly dare put this in writing, but I think if our shows of Rambouillet sheep wanted to be progressive at the present time they should do something radical. A radical nowadays is, of course, a man who is willing to pay his own debts. But if a show put on a prize for sheared Rambouillet sheep I wonder what would happen?)

But the harmful thing was that all kinds were mixed indiscriminately by breeders and there was no testing of any to learn which were the real producers as mentioned above. Few producers of Rambouillets kept a real market lamb and wool combination in mind in breeding and things were emphasized which had no relation or at most an unimportant one to the amount or to the desirability of the products from the consumer's standpoint, and no importance in making the animals adapted to conditions under which raised. However, failure to keep in mind the consumer's desires and general adaptability to producer's conditions and the trends in the industry sometimes lead to the production of that which is less suitable than it might otherwise be, and placing undue emphasis on features not of practical importance in animals, sooner or later hinders their usefulness. This is another illustration of the great need of careful, constant attention to all factors which interact to make a success

What is to be the future of the Rambouillet and what course must the development of the breed take if it is to maintain its great importance, and impress the general mutton and wool pro-

"Golden Hoof" (right), a ram bred by H. Grinnell, one of the early Rambouillet breeders of Michigan. It was dropped in 1887 and carried the American Rambouillet Association Record No. 13. According to a special report on the sheep industry, published by the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1892, this ram weighed 227 pounds and sheared 20 pounds 15 ounces, 5-inch staple.

Below are shown two Rambouillets of the present time. Left, the champion at the 1937 International Live Stock Exposition; bred by King Bros. Co. of Wyoming. Right, the high-selling Rambouillet ram at the 1937 National Ram Sale; bred by W. S. Hansen of Utah.







ducing and consuming industries? Along what lines must breeders effect improvement to keep the breed abreast of today's and tomorrow's general conditions of profitable sheep raising? How can the breed retain—or regain—and expand along lines upon which it first gained popular favor? Emphatically, that favor was not gained because of wrinkly skins or of smooth skins, but because of a meaty form, satisfactory size and heavy fleeces combined in a better relationship than could be found in any other sheep at the time.

From a practical standpoint is it of more importance that sheep be able to see or that they produce a little wool on their faces, even if heavily wooled faces might shear slightly more? What are consumers' demands with respect to wool fibers, and what kind of a sheep will produce large amounts of fibers with these features? How far can any one feature of wool be emphasized without detracting from another? Do the consumers want wool to grow on a wrinkly hide or on a smooth hide? Do the consumers care on what kind of a hide the fleeces grew or how much grew on one hide? Are length, strength, and uniformity, etc., of more importance to them? If consumers are interested in these things then producers should also be interested in them and one other thing. That is amount! What does a consumer want in lamb? If it is legs, loins, and ribs, do good ones come from sheep with hind legs like a cat and a body the width of a rail and rear end like a tame bee; or are they cut from carcasses vielded by sheep that are heavily muscled, wide, deep and squarely built? Does a wrinkly hide mean a poor carcass? Does a smooth hide mean a good one? Desirable market lambs and wool must be kept in the forepart of the breeder's mind at all times, for only such products are likely to return a profit under highly competitive conditions. But there must always be emphasis on quantity as well as quality.

High production in Rambouillets is attained when every ewe in the band-produces a desirably fleshed good-sized, well-made lamb and at the same time a large amount of desirable wool. (I am sorry I am speaking only about

Rambouillets because I could include all the breeds of sheep in this statement.) But at the present time honesty compels us all to admit that many Rambouillets do not produce such desirable lambs from the standpoint of market as can be obtained from some other breeds.

### The Rambouillet Lamb

Tests do not indicate so much difference in rate of growth among lambs by various sires of comparable size as they indicate differences in kind of growth and finish. From the market standpoint there is value in having lambs bred to show a meaty, finished carcass as well as a tendency to increase size at a rapid rate. The fact that the Rambouillet lambs in those tests graded lower and sold for somewhat less per hundred weight than others shows that the breeders of Rambouillets need to give attention to these matters. Tests with feeder lambs give further evidence of these needs, for presentday Rambouillet lambs have not attained, in such comparative tests during a given length of time, so desirable a finish or yielded such desirable carcasses as lambs with more pronounced smoothness of form. If we really know what is wanted in market lambs then we must admit that most Rambouillets need to be improved in carcass with respect to the smoothness of body lines, width and fulness of body and shape and size of the leg of lamb. Many are deficient in these respects. They can be improved. Improvement in backs, rumps and legs does not need to be accompanied by lessened wool quantity or quality. It should not be if all factors are to be kept in proper relation.

### Factors in Wool Production

The peculiar feature possessed by sheep is wool. Many other animals produce meat; some produce useful fibers; the sheep alone produces wool. The amount and kind of wool produced by any breed cannot be overlooked if it is to enjoy widespread and continued popularity. Wool production must be maintained at a high level

both as to quantity and quality if these and all other factors of sheep breeding are to be brought into proper and profitable relationship. To neglect wool is folly, to overemphasize it is also folly. To neglect or to overemphasize any one factor about wool may likewise be a serious mistake. The Rambouillet should be bred to produce good wool in large amounts. The return that a grower gets for his wool from any one sheep or a band of sheen depends upon the kind of wool and its amount. Let us look briefly at the interacting factors that influence the amount and kind of wool Rambouillets produce.

I submit that of two sheep of equal size and age and having equal fineness of wool fibers, the one which has the body the more completely covered, the fibers growing more closely together and the fibers of the greater length will vield the greater amount. That's just common sense and oddly enough it is supported by experience and investigation. Stated differently, a sheep that has wool on its back, side and belly will have more wool than one that has the same kind of wool only on back and side. The one that has two fibers of a given length in place of one fiber of the same length will have more wool than the other. And if the two sheep have an equal number of fibers of the same fineness but of different lengths, the one with the longer fibers will vield most wool. In other words, as a producer interested in the amount of wool any sheep will shear, I must watch to see that the body is well covered, that the wool is dense and that it is long. My interest as a producer in amount of wool per sheep is not shared by the consumer except in the matter of length of the fibers. It makes no difference to the consumer whether wool grows on a sheep's belly or only on its rump or whether there are 10; 000 or 50,000 fibers per square inch, but he would like to have it about two and one-half or three inches long and of reasonable fineness because that helps the manufacturer to give him the kind of a fabric he is most likely to want. But more of that later.

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(Editor's Note: The second and concluding part of this article will appear in the August issue.)

# **National Wool Marketing**





# **Corporation News Bulletin**

### Grower Owned and Operated

IT does look from available evidence as though the wool market had finally turned the corner. With the advance in mid-June of the general commodity market and the subsequent advance of the securities market a better tone was injected into the wool trade, and while prices did not move to sharply higher levels, as the first of July comes around they had advanced from 3 to 4 cents per clean pound over the levels prevailing a month ago.

The advance was fairly general all along the line. It was followed by most of the buyers, but not all the sellers. Rejection of bids were frequent even though the bids were inline with the asking price of the preceding week. Good French combing length, fine territory wool moved above the 60-cent mark, which had been the practical limit for several weeks. There was more interest shown in graded wools. Fine French combing wool was quoted at 61 to 63 cents, which on a 64 per cent shrinkage meant a 22 to 23-cent Boston grease price. Fine clothing wool picked up, and in graded piles it was worth around 60 cents clean which on a 65 per cent shrink would have been  $20\frac{1}{2}$  cents per grease pound, Boston.

Half blood French combing averaged around 60 cents. Figuring the average shrink around 59 per cent, that meant the wool was worth in Boston a little better than 24 cents in the grease. Medium wools were still slow to move. Nominal quotations of three-eighths blood combing ranged from 53 to 55 cents clean.

There was better action in the fleece wool. Bright Delaine wool is bringing 25 to 26 cents in the grease, with mills paying for three-eighths and quarter blood of the bright fleeces up to 26 cents per pound in the grease.

The strength in Boston showed off to even better advantage in the West. In spots where sales had been few and far between in the last several weeks there was immediately reflected a resumption of buying and considerable volume of wool was reported moved all the way from Texas to Montana, from Oregon to Wyoming.

The questions, of course, everyone is asking are "Is this advance permanent? Are prices definitely on the road upward?" At this season of the year when there still are millions of pounds in growers' hands, it is always difficult to say whether any upward trend can be maintained. Obviously, were a break in the securities markets to take place it might be reflected back into the wool trade, and the market

then slump back to the floor set by the Commodity Credit Corporation loan which still is but a few cents under the existing market.

However, the general feeling is that should the market slump back we would again see a pick-up shortly, for the stage is seemingly set for a better wool market. To check over some of the reasons for that statement—

### Supply of Wool Not Heavy

Figures on the available supply of wool as of July 1 would indicate that we are not faced with a surplus of wool. True, there is more wool in the country today than there was on the average July 1 for the past five years, but when you add to the average supply of wool during the past five years on July 1 the importation of foreign wool that followed between that date and April 1 when the next crop was available, the figures show that there was more wool in the country in that period than exists at the present time. Given anything like normal consumption, there is a strong possibility that domestic dealers and manufacturers will enter the world market for wool before the beginning of the next clip year on April 1, 1939.

Importations of foreign wool are continuing at a very low rate, totaling around 5 million pounds for the first six months of the year after re-exports have been deducted. A year ago figures show importations during that same period of around 125 million and there is not a year in the last five when our importations have been as low as they are at the present time, which is to be expected when one considers that the foreign importing parity is still roughly 15 cents per clean pound above the best the domestic market can show.

Of interest in an analysis of supply is the situation abroad. In England, the Continent and Japan, the main wool consuming countries outside of the United States, the supplies of wool are light. True, they are actually a little heavier than they were possibly a year ago, but they are below the average for 1933-37 at this time. In the countries producing wool in the Southern Hemisphere, supplies do show an increase as compared with previous years, the general estimate being that there are around 775 million pounds, or less, unsold, or 30 per cent greater than the average for the years 1932 to 1936.

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oncludin the Stocks of tops are running considerably higher, but while no definite figures are available as to the supply of woolen and worsted goods there are ample indications that the stock is considerably less than a year ago, and we are getting closer to the bottom of the stock. Such a situation is as would be expected after analyzing the domestic production of woolen and worsted goods over the last six months, which is showing a sharp falling off while domestic retail sales on the other hand have declined less than 14 per cent.

### Mill Consumption Very Light

While definite figures for the first six months are not available at the time this article is written, a safe estimate would be that for the first six months of the year we have consumed only around 165 million pounds of wool, which is less than any year in the last twenty-one, the period during which such records have been kept. It is to be recalled further that the falling off in consumption started back in October, 1937. Mill consumption since that time has been roughly only half as great as it was last year.

Abroad the records show that in Germany, Italy and Poland consumption has kept up, but in England, France

and Japan it has fallen off very rapidly.

The factors which determine the mill consumption, while they are showing a little improvement, have not advanced sufficiently yet to warrant any great optimism as far as concerns the next 60 to 90 days in the wool market. Industrial production, according to the latest figures, is still slipping. Factory employment is down. The ratio of prices received by agriculture to prices they must pay for goods is still against the farmer, and means that that large section of our population cannot be considered active buyers of the finished product.

On the other hand, the last three weeks have seen an improvement. Commodity prices improved. Carloadings and the production of automobiles are up. Steel production is higher, that is when compared with the four weeks previous. There is more of a backlog today in orders for woolen and worsted goods than there was on April 1, but figures still are substantially under a year ago. However, a study of past depressions reveals that the wool market does not necessarily wait for these main market-determining factors to improve before it advances. It usually leads the way up as well as the way down.

### Price Position More Favorable as Compared To Other Textiles

A comparison with other textiles such as cotton, silk and rayon shows that wool has been hit fully as hard as any other. Its decline—roughly 40 per cent as compared with a year ago—more than meets the decline in cotton, which is today about 35 per cent below a year ago. Silk, in the meantime, has declined only 13 per cent, rayon less than 20 per cent, which in turn means less substitution of these fibers and less commingling.

On the basis of such an analysis it does seem as though we are safe in stating that supplies are light; that under normal consumption, which we should expect in view of the fact that our 1937 consumption was light, we have no more than enough wool. Manufacturers are still up in the air over the possible reciprocal trade agreement with the United Kingdom, but more talk is prevalent than ever before of the likelihood of no major changes in the present arrangement. Neither do we have any surplus of wool in any stage of manufacture, instead we are short.

For the various buyers, wholesalers, retailers and cutters to jump into the market and buy large volumes in anticipation of higher prices is not to be expected. Mindful of the heavy inventory losses many of these groups experienced in the last year, they will probably continue on a hand-to-mouth basis, buying in volume only when there is definite proof of the increased purchasing power of the consuming public.

To increase that purchasing power, the government is doing much. At the present moment the Public Works Administration is set to go ahead full blast. Housing is being pushed, and figures on building contracts let show a sharp increase. There will be more RFC loans to busines. Their policies will be further liberalized. There will be more folks put on WPA work, and more direct relief. The announcement recently of the purchase by the WPA of \$10,000,000 worth of clothing for men's and boys' winter wear will further deplete inventories in the lower grades of clothing.

However, the chances are it will be Labor Day or late summer before this flow of money can be definitely felt in most channels; by that time an improvement should be expected. Inventories by then will be further reduced. Of course, many new factors can enter the market, but the general opinion is that prices have seen the bottom, that a slow, gradual improvement may develop with the major strength being reflected not much before late fall or early winter. War, of course, could change the picture drastically. At the same time peace abroad and in the Far East would lend a new complexion to our market.

We are inclined to the opinion that we will see no great sharp increase this year, but a better market as the season progresses and a better market in the winter of 1939, though it is hard to imagine that prices at that time will approach those in effect during the winter of 1937. For that to be possible world wool prices would have to advance considerably. Remember, for all practical purposes the world price of wool laid down in Boston determines the upper limit of the market for our domestic crop.

Under these conditions it would seem to the advantage of the growers not to sell their wool at the present time, but hold it for a later market. The sooner the supply of cheap wool can be shut off in the country that much sooner can we hope for permanent strength to our market. The grower who is in need of funds should take advantage of the government loan, designed primarily as a marketing loan to tide him over the prevailing conditions.

c s c r s f

The members of the National Wool Marketing Corporation offer to the growers the simplest, quickest and most satisfactory manner of obtaining that loan, storing the wool from the West in Boston where the highest loan values prevail.

# THE LAMB MARKETS

# In June

### Chicago

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A \$2.50 per hundred crash in the lamb market had apparently run its course when the time came around to tear the June leaf from the calendar. Between dawn and dark 50 to 75 cents per hundred was slashed from the quotation list. On June 7, the high spot, \$11 was paid at Chicago. Eastern markets went 50 cents above that level. Then came the crash, the debacle continuing until \$8.75 was the limit at Chicago, \$9 at Ohio River markets.

Meanwhile, in branches of the market wherein the other species were purveyed, fat cattle reached the highest levels of the year and swine staged a healthy "comeback" from previous slumps. Dressed lamb markets collapsed, the product encountering stiff sales resistance, while beef went into distributive channels as rapidly as it could be chilled, stocks of cured hog product were steadily reduced, and fresh pork went over the retailers' counter with celerity. Ovine product was immune to foreign competition, but approximately one million pounds of European pork, cooked, was dumped into this market weekly and considerably in excess of that poundage of South American canned beef passed the custom house portals, a portion of it destined for CCC camps, where fresh lamb in the dietary would have been appreciated.

At the bottom of the slump a measure of confidence was restored to trade circles. With fat steers in demand at \$9.50 to \$11 per hundred lambs were considered out of line and ripe for a reaction. Dressed lamb slumped to a slightly higher basis than beef and fresh pork wholesaled at premiums on eastern markets. Prediction had been made that volume would determine prices and the country provided that volume.

Coincident with a seasonable heavy movement from Texas, which put the Fort Worth market in the van, temporarily at least, eastern growers, flocking to a score of weekly spit-ball markets in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and Maryland, threw their hats into the ring and flooded Atlantic seaboard outlets with dressed product. A quotation list, built up to creditable levels toward the close of the winter feeding season, collapsed like a house of cards. A coterie of winter feeders were caught in the slump, shorn fed lambs of the old crop dropping abruptly to a \$6.25 @7 basis from \$8@8.25. The fat sheep or ewe market had less distance to fall, landing at \$2.50@3.25 per hundred. The slump was the sharpest in recent trade history.

Texas, although loading somewhat lighter than last year, got into full swing early in June, the run from that quarter showing signs of subsidence late in the month. Fort Worth handled the bulk in a primary sense, a secondary movement to Chicago and other eastern killing points absorbing a large

percentage. Without this southwestern contribution, Chicago kill gangs would have been unable to work full time. At Fort Worth 75 to 92-pound shorn yearlings sold at \$4@4.50, fine-wool, spring lambs at \$5.50@7.50. The great bulk of this product was thrown on Chicago and eastern markets "for what it would bring." "Sell it" was the strict injunction to branch house managers, in outlets vernacularly known in dressed trade as "cheap markets," including Philadelphia, Brooklyn and New England manufacturing towns. This season, Texas contributed a limited but increasing number of spring lambs grown in the farming sections contiguous to Fort Worth, an industry that promises expansion. Texas springers averaging 71 pounds, sold in Chicago at the high time at \$8.75.

Idaho invaded the market with early run lambs, the bulk of which went to Denver and Ogden, moving eastward to go on the meat rail. At Chicago, Idaho lambs, averaging 71 pounds, opened the season at \$10 straight, the first week of June, but by the end of

### Comparative Prices Live and Dressed Sheep and Lambs

CHICAGO AVER	RAGE LIVE LAMB	PRICES	
Week Ended:	July 2, 1938	June 25,1938	July 3, 1937
Spring Lambs:			
Choice	\$9.12	\$9.21	\$11.28
Good	8.72	8.80	10.58
Medium	7.98	8.16	9.80
Common	6.91	7.30	8.95
Ewes:		3	
Good and Choice	3.25	3.36	3.88
Common and Medium	2.50	2.56	2.50
NEW YORK AVERAGE	WESTERN DRESS	ED LAMB PRICE	s
Spring Lamb (All weights):			
Choice	\$19.10	\$18.50	\$21.85
Good	17.90	17.50	20.75
Medium	15.90	15.60	19.15

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the month \$8.25@8.75 was their market. A sprinkling of California springers, fed in Iowa, earned \$8.65, but were not sufficiently numerous to influence prices. A heavy secondary movement direct to killers from Ogden and Denver facilitated the crash; fortunately, no corn belt natives arrived to aggravate a bad situation.

In the Middle South, several score crossroad assembly points got into action, some of them previously unknown. Perambulating auctioneers and graders and buyers flocked to this temporary supply source and as correlation of values was impossible, a chaotic condition developed. Ohio River points starting at \$10.25@10.50 slumped to \$8.50@9, with only choice packages making the high figure. Killers caught in a slump of \$1 per hundred within a few days were confronted with heavy loss vending product acquired previously. A popular, but erroneous impression is that this arm of the trade profits by slumps in hoof prices. The reverse is the fact, as killers get their money during periods of gradually rising quotations. On a slumpy market they invariably run into "minus" margins in the finality of their operations, especially where a crowded dressed market throws a fit. On this occasion they ran into a two-week minus period,

12th ANNUAL

### OREGON RAM SALE

PENDLETON, Friday, August 19, 1938 600 HEAD

Rambouillets
Hampshires
Lincolns
Suffolks
Romneys
Lincoln-Rambouillets
Hampshire-Suffolks
Lincoln-Delaines

Sale Held Under Auspices of OREGON WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION, Pendleton entailing losses of \$2 to \$3 per hundred. Although the wholesale dressed market went down a well-greased set of skids, retail prices exhibited scant change, restaurateurs adhering rigidly to the standard charges, a rule as inflexible with that arm of distributive trade as were the laws of the ancient Medes and Persians. This is merely adherence to precedent and may throw light on lack of elasticity in consumption.

Illustrating the precipitancy of the slump, a Chicago packer paid \$11.60 at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, on June 7 for a string of choice lambs with a three per cent shrink, equivalent to \$11.25; when the slump had run its course a cut of the same flock sold at \$9. At Chicago \$11 lambs at the same period were backed down to \$8.75.

The June market opened promisingly, with no indication of a squall, with a \$10 top and a \$9@9.85 bulk and during the week ending June 11 recorded an \$11 top on Tuesday. On the next session the crash set in, \$9.65 registering the limit at the close. The following week \$9.75 was paid, \$8.50@9.25 taking the bulk, choice 85-pound Idahos selling at the latter figure. The crash developed during the week ending June 23, which closed with declines of 75 cents to \$1 per hundred. On Tuesday of that week \$9.90 was paid for choice lambs; on Wednesday \$9.35 was the limit; on Thursday nothing passed \$8.90 and on Friday \$8.75 was the top quotation. During the week of June 11 Idaho springers averaging 76 pounds realized \$10; later \$8.50 stopped them.

On the last round stubborn resistance by the selling side stabilized the market at \$8.25@8.75, extra quality beating the latter price 10 cents per hundred. This was attributed to heavy rains in the Middle South, necessitating suspension of a number of auction markets and curtailing the secondary movement to the Atlantic seaboard, also permitting a cleanup in demoralized eastern dressed trade circles. Wholesale carcass cost went to the lowest levels in several months. At New York the pick of the run sold at 181/2 to 19 cents per pound; seconds at 17@171/2 cents, and a fair grade at 16@161/2 cents. For common carcasses, instructions to salesmen were "take anything you can get, but move it." In some instances common carcasses sold as low as 7 to 9 cents. At Philadelphia, Texas yearling carcasses wholesaled at 11@13 cents; northern winter-fed carcasses cost retailers 13½ to 16 cents, according to quality.

What the market needs at this juncture is a measure of stability, probably because at the new level a healthier technical situation has developed. Subsidence of the Texas movement will exert a tonic influence, but northwestern lambs will report in increasing numbers and the mid-southern sphere of production, with probably 20 per cent more than last year, will exert an influence on values until well along in September, although flood tide will be registered in July. Whatever happens. there will be plenty of lambs all through the season as Iowa, Illinois. Indiana and Wisconsin are full of natives. Current prices are \$3 to \$3.50 per hundred lower than at the corresponding period of 1937 when \$12 was the top at Chicago and \$11.50@ 11.75 popular prices, throwouts realizing \$9.50. Henceforth, the market will be less erratic as bearish factors have been discounted; possibly retailers may take cognizance of the new wholesale basis and stimulate trade by giving customers the benefit. So far as the restaurant outlet is concerned prices are frozen.

A heavy volume of lamb marketing is on the horizon for July, August, and September. Native, or farm-grown stock will be gathered late as feed is abundant, insuring low cost gains and the average farmer has a penchant for weight. Northwestern lambs will be strung out and both the Appalachian and Tidewater sections will pursue the same policy, especially if the market runs into another squall.

Recent experience demonstrates that the dressed market will not stand crowding. Whenever beef production expands temporarily, recourse to the cooler for the surplus affords a safety valve. Hog product tides over such emergencies by seeking the cooler; lard may be stored indefinitely, but the en1

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tire lamb carcass must go into distributive channels without delay, a temporary accumulation necessitating weekend bargain sales, frequently at "minus" cost prices. At the recent decline lambs may have worked into strong technical position, but one or two weeks of excessive supplies will generate trouble for all concerned. Expanding production, especially east of the Missouri River is to be viewed with alarm, to borrow a phrase popular in political circles. The problem of the lamb grower is distribution.

A spurt in the lamb market the last two days of June put prices up 75 cents to \$1 per hundred. On the 30th, 1075 head of the Bennett Bros. lambs, from Mountain Home, Idaho, sold at \$9.75, averaging 84 pounds; 117 head of 96-pound shorn yearlings at \$7.25, equal to the market on similar stock on June 17. On a slow market these lambs would have been sorted 5 per cent; on this occasion they went straight. At the low time \$8.50 would have been the price.

However, the bulge has a frothy appearance as it was due solely to starvation runs, loading being sharply reduced at the bottom of the break. Kentucky and Tennessee crossroad markets were put out of business temporarily by heavy rains. What has happened under these conditions suggests an erratic market, as growers will resent raids by holding back. However, a demonstration of "comeback" ability is encouraging, generating an opinion that, apart from possible sharp breaks and bulges, the bulk of the crop will sell in an \$8.50@9 range. With the heavy Texas run over a prop will be put under the price list. The short run late in June cleaned up an accumulation at eastern dressed markets. Hereafter supply will be well conditioned as western lambs are coming in excellent shape.

J. E. Poole

### St. Joseph

RECEIPTS for the month were very light, the total being 62,-813, compared with 82,776 in May, and 75,392 in June a year ago.

Of the month's total, 5,672 were from Idaho, 8,817 from Texas and New Mexico, and the balance from native territory. The lamb market during the month was a very uneven affair but closed about steady with a month ago. Best natives sold on the close at \$9, with westerns quoted up to \$9.25.

At the high time, early in the month natives reached \$10.25 and Idahos \$10, while at the low point, on the 24th, natives were down to \$8 and western were quoted slightly higher. Choice clipped lambs were quoted around \$7 on the close, with Texas grassers \$5.50 to \$6.25. Feeder lambs were quoted around \$7.50 on the close.

The market for aged sheep closed around 25 to 50 cents higher, fat ewes sold on late days \$3 to \$3.50, old wethers and twos were quoted \$4 to \$5, and yearlings \$6.50 to \$7.

H. H. Madden

### **Omaha**

FLUCTUATING in a two-dollar range, fat lamb prices finally wound up the month of June at levels steady to a quarter lower compared with the month of May. A continuation of the upturn started late in the previous month boosted prices to \$10.25 to set a new top for the year to date, but this was of short duration and a series of declines lasted until the bulk of the lambs at one time were selling in the lower \$8's. This, too, couldn't last and late in the month prices were back near the May close.

The month of June witnessed the end of the California lamb run, but to replace this supply the Idahos were coming in increasing numbers as the month advanced. Strictly choice offerings were relatively scarce but when here they commanded a good premium over the usual run of lambs. Numerous lots of fed California lambs were received during the period, both clipped and in the wool, and these sold well in comparison with other classes A \$2@2.50 differential between the new crop of yearlings and lambs seems to be the rule.

### ROMELDALE RAMS

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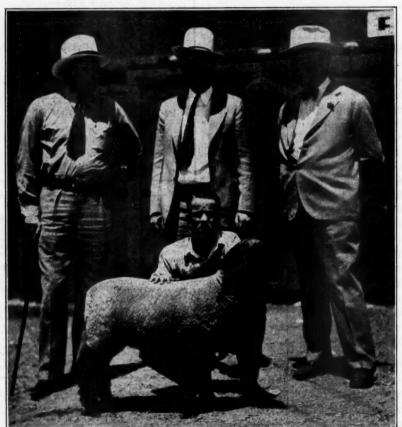
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**PHONE 174** 

MT. PLEASANT, UTAH



Rex Usdroyd holding the winning lamb in the special competition in daily weight gains show at the Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show. The lamb weighed 78 pounds at 62 days of age Center background, Mr. Nichols; left, I. H. Jacobs; right, J. H. Manderfield. (Reproduced from National Wool Grower, June, 1938, page 25).

This Hampshire Lamb was bred by E. H. STREET & SON, Richfield, Utah Who have for sale: 40 yearling rams and 100 breeding ewes.

Native offerings made up a considerable part of the daily supplies during June and some inference it would seem, as to the better conditions prevailing throughout the corn belt, might be drawn by comparing the weights of native lambs with those of last year. A few weighty native lambs have already been marketed and if the numbers greatly increase, a price discrimination against heavy offerings at an earlier than usual date may be the result.

Receipts here for the past month were, with the exceptions of June 1936 and 1937, the smallest for that period since 1917. Supplies received here at Omaha totaled 93,121 head.

Whether the improved sentiment reported recently in the wool trade, which resulted in some increase in the volume of trade in the Boston market at firm to slightly higher levels, is going to herald in the long awaited rise in wool prices is still a matter of conjecture, but any improvement in that commodity would put the lamb market on a much more stable basis.

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Fewer feeder lambs moved off the market during June of this year as compared with last year but this was due to lack of supplies, as demand for lambs in feeder flesh has been good and both natives and rangers have been rapidly picked up when available. Top feeders for the month in load lots realized \$7.60 but small bunches sold as high as \$7.75 and this price was being quoted for choice loads of rangers at the close of June. Levels at the close of June were around 25 cents above the previous month.

Supplies of aged sheep during the period were very meager and a top of \$3.50 ruled during most of the period which was strong to a quarter above the May close. Numerous inquiries are being made for breeding ewes and demand at the present time for yearlings is especially broad. Today, July 1, the market was really tested for the first time when a good load of Idaho yearlings appeared in the run. The load sold at \$7.25 which was considerably higher than the small lots which have been making up the sup-

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lots supply have been bringing. Quotations on older ewes hovered around \$4 for full-mouthed offerings.

James A. Lonsbury

### Denver

A LATE month advance brought spring lamb prices to 50 to 75 cents higher at the close than at the opening of June. Ewes ruled uneven during the entire month but closed about steady with the opening.

Receipts at Denver consisted largely of Idahos and totaled 134,982 head, compared to 211,427 in May and 158,-251 during June, 1937. The shortage of receipts at Denver during June was largely due to the fact that feed in Idaho is good and ranchers are holding their lambs back for more weight. Idaho shipments of 98,000 during the month were 35,000 under June, 1937. California sent in 13,000 sheep and lambs, an increase over a year ago of 10.000. Oregon marketed 14.000 lambs as against 4,000 during the same month a year ago, with smaller receipts from Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas

For the first six months of 1938 receipts of sheep and lambs at Denver totaled 1,054,447, a decrease of 36,000 under the same period of 1937. The million mark was passed this year on June 21.

Colorado sent in 582,000 during the six months' period; California 236,000; Idaho 135,000; Wyoming 36,500; Utah 33,000; Oregon 18,500, and Arizona 9,600. California shipments increased 120,000 head, or nearly double the number received a year ago; Wyoming increased its shipments 11,000 head and Arizona 4,200 during the six months' period. Other western states showed decreases.

Due to light receipts early in the month, Idaho spring lambs advanced until \$10.40 was reached. The market then sagged until \$7.90 was the best price for Idahos on June 11. There was some drop during the third week in the month but the last week prices went higher again until on the closing day \$9.40 took top Idaho lambs.

(Continued on page 31)

### HAMPSHIRES

Our Offerings at the 1938 National Ram Sale include:

No. 151, a 2-year-old ram—the top yearling Hampshire ram at the following shows:

Bear Lake County Fair, Idaho, Twin Falls, Pocatello and Blackfoot, Utah State Fair and Ogden Livestock Show.

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A very hardy, prolific breed. The ewes are heavy milkers and the lambs grow very rapidly, being easy feeders. Excellent for cross-breeding. For literature and list of breeders near you, write NATIONAL SUPPOLK SHEEP ASSOCIATION Pare Bred Live Stock Record Bidg.

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### JOHN M. HINER

Reed Point, Montana



IN this midsummer month of July, with the planting behind, the growing season seems to have the situation well in hand. Sheepfold is making preparation for a great harvest. And because of the prospects, Joe Bush and Peter Spraynozzle have written an open letter to their County Agent.—The Editor.

Dear Mr. County Agent: Every County, U. S. A.

Looks like we were in a fix, Joe Bush und me, Peter Spraynozzle. This spring we signed up a crop control contract when you were "high tailing" the county for Mr. Secretary of Agriculture, and the AAA, which as Joe und me understood it is Agriculture's Allotted Alimony. In the contract Joe und me were limited to the number of acres of corn we were to plant. Now that the growing season has taken a hand, when it rains just when there is need of rain, the requirements of the contract are all shot. A two-ear-to-the-stalk corn is in the making and a bumper crop coming on for the harvest.

Then, too, in the matter of grain—wheat, oats, barley—we plowed only the number of acres set down in the crop control contract, agreeable to the Department of Agriculture, the Farm Burro und the AAA; but again nature stepped in, nourished the fount in the breast of Mother Earth, und now with the threshing at hand, our small grain crops are all out of bounds of what you said we could produce. Looks like, Mr. County Agent, you will have to do something for the farmers of your County instead of working all the time to keep in step with the AAA und the Department of Agriculture.

Looks like if our contract with the Department of Agriculture, und the AAA, that we signed up with you were in tons, bushels or pounds, we might regulate und control our crops. But until nature is willing to submit to the supervision of government control, looks like we are walking-farming by a rule laid down for us that is dedicated to a proposition that won't work.

In our crop control contract we are limited in our lamb crop. But it looks like that has gone haywire too. Our lambing this spring was something to write the National Wool Grower about, but we figgered there might be a range loss because of coyotes, bobcats and other predatory animals. But looks like when the recession bumped into the tail light of the depression so many men out of employment became predatory animal hunters that man is the only predatory animal left—und he eats only from a vegetable plate.

When Adam und Eve lost their equity in a fruit ranch on the Euphrates they set their son Abel up as a wool grower to provide a fabric that would meet all human needs for clothing, und provide the lamb roasts und mutton chops for the table. But looks like now that a silk worm is worth more than a wool-bearing ram lamb or a range rambling ewe; that a lettuce leaf between two slices of bread, from which all the potent factors of wheat, rye or barley have been removed, is a sumptuous meal to be washed down vid a glass of milk that has been strained of all semblance of butter fat.

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Then, there is Amelia, Joe's prize-winning brood sow. According to contract she was ruled out of production this year of 1938, but one night our hog pasture fence broke down und Oscar—you know Oscar the Third, my prize-winning boar—. Vell, anyway, Amelia is in Joe's brood shed, his hog contract busted both ways from the jack, und Amelia vid grunts of satisfaction is nursing a litter of 24 of the healthiest little pigs. What are we to do about that? We are appealing to you Mr. County Agent—vot are we to do?

Looks like providence has set in the game und holds a better hand than the Department of Agriculture, the AAA, the Farm Burro or the Aggies. If it will help, Joe is willing to pay back the checks, the WPA paymaster has been leaving in Joe's mail box to pay the wages of three scarecrows in Joe's cornfield. That they acted like WPA workers, deceiving the paymaster by their activities-leaning on what the paymaster thought were shovel handles-was not the fault of Joe or me. It was the wind in their tattered garments that made them look like they were moving. What looked like shovel handles from the road were sticks cut on the creek bank, und what sounded like conversation vas the croaking of the crows on their shoulders. Believe us, Mr. County Agent, we were not trying to deceive. If you don't help us, Mr. County Agent, we stand to lose our processing check, our standing in the Democratic Party, the good will of Mr. Secretary Wallace, the benefits of the AAA, our membership in the Farm Bureau und get in bad vid the nations who have been expecting to unload their exportable surpluses in the markets of the American farmers.

If you don't step into the gap—"fix the ticket" for Joe und me—we will be headed for the "Hoose-gow," the poor house, the relief roll, or the hide-out of the Republican Party. So we are appealing to you, Mr. County Agent, not to cloud up and rain on us just when we need the sunshine of your smile.

Joe Bush und Peter Spraynozzle

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### The Lamb Markets

(Continued from page 29)

The few loads of California wooled spring lambs received in early June cleared at \$8.75 to \$9.75 and a few loads of California new crop lambs sold at \$8.65 to \$9.

Feeding lambs sold in small consignments at around \$6.60 to \$7. Feeding lambs went mostly to feed lots of Colorado, Illinois and Iowa.

Atlantic Coast and interior Iowa slaughterers purchased 37,000 head of fat lambs during the month. This was an increase of 13,000 compared to the number taken by these interests during the same month a year ago.

For the first six months of the year 495,000 lambs were purchased in Denver by Atlantic Coast and interior Iowa packers. This was an increase of 133,000 head over the number taken by these same interests during the same period of 1937.

Lamb slaughter at Denver during June totaled 26,500 head, an increase of 6,000 over the number slaughtered in Denver during the same month of last year. For the first six months of the year Denver slaughter was 190,500 head or 16,000 more than was slaughtered there during the same six months of 1937.

W. N. Fulton

### Ogden

THE June lamb market opened exceedingly strong with a \$9.75 top on choice Idahos, slid down to \$9.25 in a few days but had regained its strength by the end of the first week when \$9.75 was again paid for the choice lots, and \$9.50 to \$9.60 bought the remainder of the supply. However, the next day's market took a 75-cent drop to \$9, dropped 65 cents the next day to \$8.35, and recovered to \$8.50 on June 10. Ewes were selling for \$3 at this time and a few consignments of wethers were bringing \$5.25. From \$8 to \$8.25 was good enough to purchase lambs up to the middle of the month when the market took a sudden upswing and reached \$9, but again turned

down, dropping this time to \$7.90. Shorn lambs were going at \$7.25 at this latter stage and a few feeders were sold at \$7.25. Small consignments of ewes brought \$2.75. Toward the close of the month the market again turned upward and closed out strong at \$8.35.

An abundance of range feed throughout practically all of the range country has resulted in lamb's being heavier this year than ordinarily, and attaining that additional weight earlier, Lambs are choice and sappy, and as a result do not shrink out so much while in transit. Feed conditions are causing many ranchers and farmers to look about for a means of disposal; some of them find that they have good range feed, as well as last year's hay on hand and another crop in the immediate offing. Some are seeking to feed livestock on a rental or share basis but have been unable to interest many livestock men in a deal of this kind.

Receipts totaled 167,031 for the month of June, of which total about 72 per cent came out of the State of Idaho. Oregon came next from the standpoint of numbers received, while California, Nevada and Utah followed in that order. Besides movement out to slaughtering points, feeder shipments were made into the states of Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa.

D. F. Estes

### Kansas City

JUNE uncovered the most erratic lamb price movements of any month this year. On several days declines of 50 cents were followed by rallies of 50 cents the next day and at times when it looked as if a new low basement was being dug for the market there was a quick climb to new scenery. Neither the buying nor the selling side had any very definite idea as to what could be expected. Newcrop lambs bore the brunt of these rapid changes. In the 30-day period the market uncovered both the high and low spots for the year. The peak price, \$10.15, was paid June 9 and 10, and the bottom figure \$8 came the 23rd. Regardless of this \$2.15 price swing, closing quotations were only 25 cents under the May close, or ap-

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On June 28 at 114 days' average age, they weighed 140 lbs.
Our foundation flock is composed of imported

On Julie 28 at 114 days average age, they weighed 140 lbs.
Our foundation flock is composed of imported Canadian ewes.
Our sires have come from Canadian breeders who have been importing their sires and dams from England.

R. E. THOMAS R.F.D., HEBER CITY, UTAH

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Over 366,000 Rambouillets Now
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For history of the breed, list of members, rules, pedigree blanks, etc., address the Secretary. proximately halfway between the high and low points.

June saw old-crop lambs fade into a yearling classification and new-crop lambs assume the dominating market position. Since early March spring lambs from the producing areas of Arizona and California had been in evidence and in passing out of the picture in early June they were followed by new crop Texas and native lambs and fairly heavy runs of oldcrop, shorn Texas lambs. With very few exceptions none of the new-crop lambs showed very good finish and for the most part were light weights. In both finish and weight they were in sharp contrast with winter-fed lambs which had carried both finish and weight. The varied condition of the offerings was a factor in the price swing. Late in the month many native lambs went over the scales to killers in a 55 to 60-pound weight range, Regardless of the fact that these half-fat light lambs drew discounts of \$1 to \$1.50 producers kept them coming because they were afraid that the market would be lower by the time the lambs were fat. Some observers regard this heavy run of half-fat kinds as a factor that will make for a stronger market in July. In view of the fact that feed is plentiful the heavy marketing of half-fat kinds was not justified.

New-crop lambs closed May at \$9.25 and in the first week in June rose to \$10.15. Within a week they were selling at \$8.25 down and then rallied \$1 to \$9.25, and dropped \$1.25 within eight days. The last few days of the month there was an upswing of \$1 to produce a closing top of \$9. In other words the market in a 30-day period went up and down the price ladder twice.

Texas marketing occupied a rather peculiar position. In May and early June the old-crop, shorn lambs and new-crop lambs that were fat were picked and shipped, but after the middle of the month age forced old-crop lambs into a yearling class and very few of them were very fat and new-crop lambs were as much underfinished as most of the native lambs. Some sections of Texas had excellent range and others did not and this accounted

for the wide difference in their condition. Early in the month some of the shorn old-crop lambs got by as lambs at \$7.50 to \$8 and later under shorn vearlings it was a \$5.25 to \$6.50 market with some cull kinds selling as low as \$4.25 to \$4.50. The new-crop end moved at \$6 to \$9, the highs and lows corresponding to the peak and bottom in native lambs. Texas started the season with excellent prospects for making a large crop of grass fat sheep and lambs, but this failed to materialize and actual production of fat kinds fell short of last year and numbers in the feeder classes were increased.

Mature fat sheep, exclusive of yearlings and short twos, were largely old ewes. The cull ends sold at \$1.50 to \$2.50 and the fat ends \$2.50 to \$3.75, to make the June close 25 to 50 cents above the May close. More than normal tonnage of mutton was consumed during the month, due in part to the fact that it continued as a relatively low-priced meat.

Feeder trade was confined largely to the cutout end of the new crop offerings, largely in the underweight classes and had no particular bearing on what will be the attitude of feeders this coming winter. At the present time the central west and plains states regions have the most uniformly good grass and crop prospects in six years. Thin cattle will be scarce and hard to locate. Hog production, though showing some increase over last year, is still much below normal, so it seems reasonable to anticipate a large demand for feeding lambs late in the summer and fall. Last winter's fed lambs lost money and consequently regular feeders are clamoring for lower-priced thin lambs, but it is quite probable that the abundance of feed at comparatively low prices may bring a new set of feeders into the picture this fall. Thus far few lambs have been contracted in the range country because winter feeders want to let the actual market develop.

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July will see comparatively heavy marketing of native lambs, but it is anticipated that this movement will be fairly well out of the way before fat range lambs are ready for market. If present conditions are maintained the 1e

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per cent of range lambs that are fat will be large and the per cent of suitable weight feeders small. Texas, of course, supplies an exception. At least a fair balance between fat and feeder lambs should tend to stabilize the general market.

June receipts were 163,407 as compared with 122,321 in the same month of 1937. This was an increase of 41,086 or slightly more than 33 per cent. For the six months arrivals were 826,724, or 86,371 less than in the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin

### The Feeder Lamb Market

POSITIVELY no interest is taken in feeder prospects. Odd sales at 51/2 cents on the range are reported, but the market has yet to be developed. All available information is that western breeders are making no effort to stimulate trade and have no present intention of doing any business under 6 cents, a figure at which some bands could be acquired. The long end of the Idaho crop will go to the butcher and a larger percentage of Montana's output than usual is also headed for the abattoir, weights running 7 to 8 pounds per head heavier than last year. Oregon and Washington exhibit dry spots, which is likely to furnish a larger percentage of feeders than elsewhere. In Montana a movement is on foot to send lambs into the corn belt to feed on contract if reasonably satisfactory cash prices are not available. Experience has demonstrated that this is a doubtful method of marketing, advisable only in an emergency, which may impend.

A favorable factor at present is high cost and scarcity of stock cattle; another, feed plenitude everywhere and assurance of corn at reasonable cost. The present narrow spread between stockers and fat cattle is without precedent, which is likely to switch many farmer-feeders to lambs. At Chicago and Kansas City desirable calves and yearlings are realizing \$8.75 to \$9.50 per hundred, compared with which lambs at \$6@6.50 would be cheap. Texas lambs will go to feeders in considerable volume as they have earned

a reputation for making gains and the product is better adapted to dressed trade on a grain finish than off grass.

Feeders are discouraged at the low price of wool and are puzzled concerning the AAA corn policy which has recently generated such opposition that placation measures are planned. Admittedly basing corn allotments on previous acreage was a blunder; an equitable method would have been a farm acreage basis. As a result of this, thousands of farmers ignored individual allotments, depriving themselves of bounty payments and maximum loan privileges. Their position in the event that a marketing agreement plebiscite is taken next fall will further complicate an awkward situation as an inevitable favorable result means restricted consumption. Presumably such restriction would affect adversely the popular method of running western lambs in cornfields when the crop matures, as marketing quotas will be based on aggregate yields, not merely shucked corn.

The avowed intention of the planners is stabilizing cost of feed at higher levels than last winter. It is doubtful, however, if taking any considerable portion of the crop off the market by the sealing process would establish a trading basis for free corn, practical certainty being that the government will find itself with a large quantity of valorized grain on its hands, which means repetition of its experience with cotton, unless partial failure of future crops intervenes. In any event cornfields harvested by feeding on the stalk will be figured in the aggregate yields and individuals charged with that consumption in figuring their sealing quota. Of course recourse may be had to substitute feeds, but the average farmer feeds for the purpose of securing inexpensive fertilizer and marketing his corn on the hoof, a method of soil conservation intensely practical and of proven merit. The official soil conservation plan is merely a device for distribution of federal "manna," a vote-catching subterfuge, as rentals are invariably paid on the poorest and frequently non-productive acreage, regardless of conservation efWe Store Wool for CCC Loans
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## Grazing Management

(Continued from page 19)

For such cases the rotational use of fire may be found highly desirable. That is, burning of only one quarter or one third of the total area to be treated each year. Thus, only that amount of feed is retired from use each year and in all likelihood the remaining area for that year will be able to support the entire demand without the purchase of supplementary feed.

But under such a plan it is necessary to control the fire each year to the designated area. Since the success with which an orderly and well-organized program of range improvement involving the removal of sagebrush by fire is conducted is dependent upon the control of fire to designated areas under rotational burning, a study of the type of fire line and procedure in burning has been incorporated in the study of the effect of fire upon range vegetation.

In sagebrush removal it is desirable that uniformity of removal be attained for permanence of benefits. In order that uniformity may be secured sagebrush areas must be burned when conditions for control of fire are dangerous. That is, on most areas successful and uniform burning will be secured only when the understory is very inflammable, winds high, humidity low and temperature high. Thus, it is imperative that every precaution be taken in the construction of fire lines for control of the fire.

The following type fire line has been found quite successful in the control of sagebrush fires. Two lanes are cleared to the mineral soil by grader or bulldozer. These two lanes, the first about 8 feet wide and the second about 16 feet wide, are separated by a strip of uncleared sagebrush about 4 feet wide and located with reference to the burn in such a manner that the wider lane is adjacent to the tract to be burned. Then during the period when the wind is blowing across the tract into the line the sagebrush should be burned out to a width of about 100 feet inside the line by burning progressively back from the line. Thus the completed line is composed of a line 100 feet wide from which the sagebrush has been burned, a 16-foot lane from which the sagebrush has been cleared mechanically to the mineral soil, an unburned, uncleared strip of sagebrush about 4 feet wide and then a second cleared lane about 8 feet wide. The cost per mile of constructing such line using labor at \$3 per day and with a bull-dozer equipped caterpillar tractor at \$16 per 8-hour day is as follows:

farmed and since abandonment have failed to revegetate to the original perennial grasses. In most cases these lands are clothed in sagebrush, Russian thistle and cheatgrass, furnishing but little forage. These potentially productive lands are furnishing but a small percentage of the forage that the area might provide.

Since natural revegetation is so slow it is necessary to reseed such lands to valuable forage species.

The plot included in the field-day presentation was planted to crested wheatgrass in the spring of 1932, by

Type of expense	Number men	Number days	Cost per day	Total cost
Caterpillar (rental)		1	\$16.00	\$16.00
Operator	. 1		8.00	8.00
Burning out line	. 6	1/2	3.00	9.00
Miscellaneous (burners, kerosene, etc.)				2.00
TOTAL				\$35.00

These costs are exclusive of transportation to and from the area.

Additional costs for burning the area and patrolling the line will amount to about \$15 per mile of line.

Assuming that a square area four sections in size is to be burned and the prevailing wind is certain to be from the southwest, lines must be constructed along the north and east sides of the block and one-half mile beyond the two sides as wings. Thus, a total of 5 miles of line must be constructed to control the fire on 2,560 acres. The total cost of construction of line and actual burning plus patrolling is \$50 per mile, which for 5 miles of line equals \$250. Thus, the minimum cost of removal of sagebrush by controlled burning is approximately \$0.10 per acre when blocks as large as four sections are burned at a time.

An additional expense of 5 to 10 cents per acre incurred by the loss of grazing privileges for one year or more may be charged against the cost of sagebrush removal. Thus, the total cost of sagebrush removal by controlled fire may exceed 15 to 20 cents per acre.

### Reseeding Depleted Range Lands

Many of the lands throughout the Snake River plains were at one time drilling the seed in. Since planting the area has been almost totally protected from grazing use. In its present condition this area is producing approximately a ton and a half of herbage per acre as compared to approximately three-quarters ton on abandoned lands. But in contrast to typical abandoned land areas this area is producing over a ton of usable forage. Typical abandoned lands in the area are producing only approximately 300 pounds of usable forage per acre.

A second plot planted in the spring of 1934 to crested wheatgrass and grazed almost continually since planting is now producing approximately 1,100 pounds of usable forage per acre, roughly three times as much as other abandoned lands not reseeded.

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### Sheep Breeding Experiments

Results of the sheep breeding work at the U. S. Sheep Station were explained the second day of the program by Dr. Julius E. Nordby, director. He told of the development of the Columbia breed at the station by mating Rambouillet ewes with Lincoln rams and explained the background of the Targhee breed, another product of the station. The Targhee is in its formative

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period of development and is being built up by making use of a combination of Rambouillet, Lincoln, and Corriedale breeds. It is about 75 per cent Rambouillet. Other experiments with the flocks, which total 3,000 sheep and range on 50,000 acres of permanent grazing land, were also explained by Dr. Nordby.

The field day closed with an inspection of the newly constructed Western Sheep Breeding Laboratory where a number of wool exhibits were on display, together with some of the equipment which will be put into operation when the laboratory officially opens about July 15.

At an evening meeting June 9, under the chairmanship of Professor C. W. Hickman of the University of Idaho, the visitors heard addresses by D. A. Spencer of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C.; Director Reed W. Bailey, J. A. Reed, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association; C. E. Favre in charge of grazing for the Forest Service in Region Four; and S. G. Freeborn, sheep breeder of Calgary, Canada. At the various grazing projects Dr. George Stewart, in charge of range investigations, and Joseph Pechanec, in charge of the range work at the Dubois Station, explained the purpose and results of the experiments in range management.

### Wild Animals Free

T is noted a Washington dispatch relates that the Taylor Grazing Division has secured a large number of wild animals that they intend to use for range improvement. Among the number are 1000 beavers. These will be distributed over the range in dry coulees and valleys. By the use of sagebrush and cactus they will erect huge dams that will store water for stock purposes. In the absence of mud it is thought the beavers will soon learn to use sand and gravel for dam purposes. It is believed they will not require any food other than that contained in the natural atmosphere. Anyone desiring any of these beavers should address the chairman of his local grazing board. In Idaho, Worth S. Lee of Mountain Home is in charge of distribution. S. W. McClure

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### The Feeder Lamb Market

(Continued from page 33)

A 70-cent corn loan is popular expectancy, although an element not to be ignored demands a higher rate which throws the subject into the sphere of controversy. Proponents of the highloan rate contend that when corn is up. livestock commands correspondingly high prices, an obvious fallacy as the sequence of short corn crops is ruinous liquidation early in the following season, subsequent high livestock prices benefiting only those able to weather the storm. That the interests of grain growers and livestock feeders are antagonistic will not be disputed. There is merit to the contention that cheap corn is undesirable, but in recent years cost of growing that grain has been materially reduced by increasing use of machinery. Farmer-feeders, or a majority of them, have yet to realize that if the sealing process receives official sanction, a portion of their corn production, to be arbitrarily determined by bureaucrats, will be tucked away behind crib slats, with a fine of 15 cents per bushel imposed on those who feed it themselves. When and if their free corn is exhausted, they will be under the necessity of liquidating livestock in the feed lot, or purchasing feed on the open market.

On whatever basis the feeder lamb market is finally established, that development will be late as few orders have reached the hands of middle men and dealers show no inclination to "start something." The growing corn crop is backward, creating danger of damage by early frosts, and much of the low-lying acreage has been submerged by excessive humidity. Recent drouthy sections of the corn belt, notably Missouri, western Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, have excellent prospects, so that the aggregate yield will be of sufficient volume to warrant official effort to secure a "marketing agreement" for which Congress has laid down explicit rules. No one doubts that a majority of two thirds of those voting on such a proposition is already assured as the bounty recipients are unanimously favorable.

To what extent this prospect will

affect demand for feeding lambs speculation is useless. Cheap corn insures low cost gains, which averted even more serious loss on last winter's operations. Assuming that, regardless of aggregate yields, the price of corn can be maintained at a level where growers prefer sending it to the elevator, difficulties faced by commercial feeders will be increased. Possibly they will shorten the ration, throwing a crop of low-yielding, half-fat lambs into killers' laps, or if substitute feeds are relatively low, have recourse to that supply. In any event corn sealing on an extensive scale will be an interesting experiment.

J. E. Poole

### Index to Advertisers

COMMERCIAL Page CAMP WAGONS EAR TAGS, BRANDS, ETC. American Turpentine & Tar Co., New Orieans, La... W. H. Batchler & Co., Palo Pinto, Texas. Sait Lake Stamp Co., Salt Lake City..... HOTELS Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City..... The New Healy, Ogden, Utah. MISCELLANEOUS
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T Toolo	BREED ASSOCIATIONS
American	Corriedale, Laramie, Wyo27
American	and Delaine Merino, Xenia, Ohio32
American	Hampshire, Detroit, Mich31
American	Rambouillet, Marysville, Ohio32
American	Shropshire, Lafayette, Ind32
American	Suffolk, Moscow, Idaho31
	Corriedale, Union Stock Yards, Chicago31
	Suffolk, Union Stock Yards, Chicago 29

### **Auxiliary News** OREGON

### Malheur County

An interesting meeting of the Malheur County Chapter of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Oregon Wool Growers Association was held June 14, 1938, at the home of Mrs. Herman Sattgact Thirteen members and friends enjoyed a discussion pertaining to methods of moth control, worked on the hooked rugs being made of dyed wool by the group, and presented a baby quilt to one of the members as a gift from the Auxiliary. Lamb's wool was put on the inside of this quilt.

Another worthy project carried out by the Auxiliary was the presentation of a summer school scholarship to Bud Schweizer for outstanding 4-H Club work in sheep.

Mrs. M. M. Joyce, Cor. Secretary

### Morrow County

At the June meeting and luncheon at The Lucas Place in Heppner the rodeo, set for August 25, 26, 27, was discussed and plans were made. It was decided that no wool exhibit will be shown this year in the lobby of the bank as heretofore, but a float for the Saturday's parade will be made carrying out the wool idea. The committee selected to arrange for this are Mesdames W. H. Cleveland, Ralph I. Thompson, C. C. Patterson, B. C. Pinckney, Percy Hughes, Philip Mahoney, Frank Wilsinson, R. A. Thompson and D. M. Ward.

A blanket raffle will also be held at rodeo time with the ticket committee composed of Mesdames E. R. Schaffer, Harold Cohn, Garnet Barratt, Joe Belanger, Agnes Wilcox, Jasper Crawford, Billy Instone, Richard Wells and Ray Kinne.

The booth at the State Fair was discussed at this time and the possibility of selling woolen articles.

After the meeting, bridge was played with Mrs. Hubert Gaily as hostess. High score was received by Mrs. Harold Cohn and consolation by Mrs. L. D. Tibbles.

Josephine Mahoney, Cor. Secretary